

ILLUSTRATED TIMES

REGISTERED AT THE GENERAL POST OFFICE FOR TRANSMISSION ABROAD.

NEW SERIES.

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No. 422.—VOL. II.

LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1863.

PRICE 3D.—STAMPED 4D.

AMNESTY.

As soon as it appeared that the Polish insurrection was to be carried on in earnest, the Russian Emperor ordained that it should be crushed within ten days. That period, however, was found insufficient for the purpose; an extension of time gave no happier results; and it is now made known that "all the Poles in the kingdom who shall lay down their arms and return to their allegiance by the 13th of May" shall be pardoned. The amnesty is to be "full and entire." Even Russians engaged in the insurgent ranks may take their pardon; and the "only exceptions are, with regard to ordinary crimes and such offences as have been committed by the army."

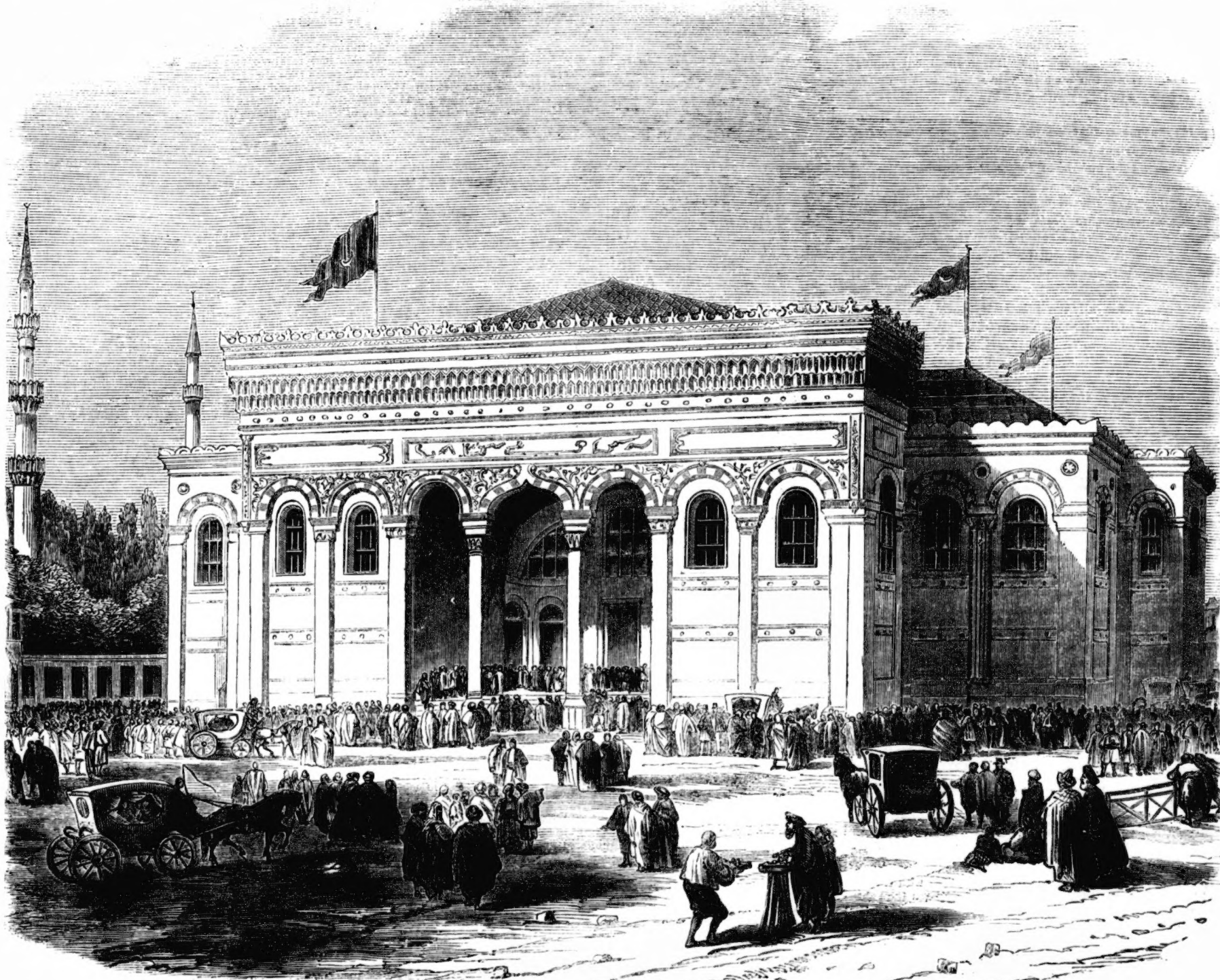
But the proclamation seems to have awakened no satisfaction, save in the hearts which conceived it. Of course, that is something; a consciousness of well-doing is always grateful; but this is a case in which virtue can scarcely be considered its own reward. To be of any account to the professor it should be recognised as virtue. The good deed should be applauded,

or at least accepted; and it happens that Russian clemency has such bad luck that everybody refuses it—nobody believes in it. Those Muscovites, those own undoubted subjects of the Czar, who, having fought against him in rebellion, are especially named for pardon, may do so, because they are naturally better acquainted than aliens with the real feelings of their Government. It is true, no instance of an insurgent Russian giving himself up has at present reached us; but when it does we shall certainly wish the gentleman joy.

And how is it that the amnesty is answered by defiance in Poland, and by scornful mocking everywhere else? A few Prussian statesmen approve it—the more moderate politicians—but the Poles themselves will have none of it, and all the rest of Europe is only made suspicious and wrathful. The insurrection spreads, we hear; but it has still no chance of military success, fighting unaided. Active assistance from the sympathetic world without it is not to have; and yet when reconciliation is proposed, when the right hand of fellowship is tendered by the stronger party, they who cannot help themselves, and we

who cannot help them, resent the offer as an outrage. It is impossible to avoid the suspicion, then, that there must be something wrong about the offer: we, who have no particular taste for picking holes in the purple of any Potentate, confess it. The fact is, that in penning this promise of amnesty the Russian has deliberately scratched himself, so that the Tartar may appear; and the inner man thus revealed is seen to be as obstinate and as wary as ever.

Let us see how the matter stands. A week or two ago, when the three interfering Powers began to stir in their Cabinets, threatening to take up foolscap with one accord on behalf of the Poles, it was resolved by Russia that her army should be put on a war footing. The fighting went on in Poland; her soil was bathed in blood, while miles of red tape were unrolled in the Council-chambers of France, of England, and of Austria. The Czar didn't care. He was not at all alarmed; but, even while the morally-remonstrant Powers were engaged in writing out their several but similar protests, he ordered a confiscation of Polish property. Next



OPENING OF THE UNIVERSAL EXHIBITION AT CONSTANTINOPLE.—(FROM A SKETCH BY M. PREZIOZI.)

day the bow of promise—this rainbow proffer of amnesty—comes out!

The date of the proclamation is Easter Sunday, and Easter is the great religious festival-time of the Greek Church, when thoughts of clemency, of peace, and goodwill to all men, even Poles, might naturally agitate the Russian bosom. We might, then, be disposed to sit down with the pious though improbable supposition that the Czar had taken what is vulgarly called a fit of tenderness, and had resolved in the midst of the struggle to bring his Polish people into subjection by offices of love rather than by force of arms; only that the proclamation was made at a moment when the remonstrances of England, France, and Austria were actually on their way to St. Petersburg, and that the terms of the amnesty threaten more than they concede. The bow of promise is all in the air. The exceptions, "with regard to ordinary crimes and such offences as have been committed by the Army," are so vague, so wide, that we should not be surprised to find them capable of taking in every one whom the pardoning Government might think safer in Siberia than in Poland; and then there is not a word to suggest any intention of remedying Poland's wrongs. She is only told that if she will leave off fighting at once it shall not be much the worse for her. There must be some exceptional punishment; but everybody shall not be hanged, and, as for the rest, there shall be no addition to the tyrannies which drove the Poles to arms. This is what we understand by the summary of the Emperor's manifesto, which alone has reached us at the time we write:—"The obligation rests with us to preserve the country from the return of disorders, and to open a new epoch of political life based upon the rational organisation of administrative local self-government. We have already laid the foundations of this in the institutions which have been granted, the efficacy of which has not yet been put to the test. It is our desire to maintain those institutions, while reserving to ourselves the right of proceeding with their future development according to the requirements of the age and of the country." Who can wonder that the insurrection goes on just as if no manifesto had been issued at all? Plainly, the insurgents will not trust their lives to the Emperor's half promise, and he explicitly disavows any present intention of healing their political injuries.

It may now occur to the attentive reader that a proclamation which was not likely to have any effect upon the insurgents might have been published with another view. No doubt that is the fact. The manifesto was written, not for the benefit of the Poles, but for our benefit. It was meant at once to anticipate and to answer European interference. In effect, it is exactly the reply we foresaw would be made:—"We cannot consent to discuss reforms with an insurgent population. You interpose too soon if you solicit us to deliver political privileges to rebels with arms in their hands. If you urge that we ought to concede those privileges, that is one thing; if you mean that we may decently or with safety confess ourselves frightened out of them, that is quite another." Only, by issuing this manifesto before the remonstrances of the three Powers were tendered, the Russian Government is enabled to add, "You see we do not wait your advice to give way as far as we can, to begin with. The insurrection is pardoned. No more blood shall be shed if we can help it; and if the insurgent Poles will lay down their arms, we will faithfully consider their complaints and remove them if possible."

Now, allowing for all the insincerity—even obvious insincerity—which such a reply can contain, we stick to our own opinion about it. The three Powers are answered. There is an end of "diplomatic action," unless it be exercised another way, and brought to bear on the Poles themselves in urging the abandonment of the insurrection. The fury of the French journalists against this "amnesty," their railings at it as a clumsy stratagem, a feeble manoeuvre; and their confidence that Europe will not allow itself to be duped by such a comedy, assure us that they are of the same mind. In such a case as this, "diplomatic action" is itself a comedy until it is backed by threats of force, more or less courteous, but undoubtedly earnest. Russia may have taken a position utterly false and injurious, but at present it is impregnable to talk, and especially to diplomatic talk. We despair of seeing the wrongs of Poland healed in that way; it is as hopeless as to plaster a sword-wound with a treatise on surgery. As long as the Russian Emperor believes that he is safe from armed interference, he will deal with the affairs of his own dominions in his own way, and much we fear, from the terms of this well-discussed manifesto, that his benevolence is not to be trusted, after all.

OPENING OF THE OTTOMAN EXHIBITION.

The exhibition of the industrial products of Turkey was opened at Stamboul on Friday, the 27th of February, by the Sultan, in the presence of a large gathering of Mussulmans and Christians who had assembled to witness the inaugural ceremony.

On reaching the great square of At-Meidan, near the celebrated mosque of Sultan Achmet, the Sultan alighted, and was received by Mustapha Pacha, the President of the Exhibition Commission. Attended by the Viceroy of Egypt, the Grand Vizier, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Seraskier, the Sedar-ekrem, and several of the palace officials, his Majesty proceeded to the dais prepared for him at the southern end of the building. Haidi Effendi, the chief mollah of the palace, read a prayer invoking the blessing of Heaven on his Majesty, the Government, the Ottoman dominions, and the exhibition. To this the assembled multitude having responded with a loud "Amin!" the Sultan advanced a few steps and declared the exhibition opened.

Though the contents of the building are far from being complete, the exhibition is very interesting and curious. The structure covers an area of 5600 yards, and is in shape an oblong parallelogram, with two side aisles and two courts at the south end inclosing one large central court. The dead lateral and end lines of the building are broken by wide alcoves, which, forming so many courts, serve to relieve the flat mural uniformity, and to facilitate the classification of the articles exhibited. The floor of the central court, which is sunk some 2 ft. below that of the rest of the building, is tastefully laid out as a flower parterre, having in its centre a handsome marble fountain, while on

each side stand a couple of rifled fieldpieces, with their ammunition-ladders, contributed by the Imperial foundry at Zeitoun-bournu.

With regard to the architecture of the building, no one style has been adhered to; but, as in the columns and arches of the interior, a kind of Composite Moresque predominates. The portico is distyle, with the bases of its pillars painted green, the shafts red, and the capitals white, the body colour of the building being of a light buff. Next over these stretches an oblong panel, having the words "Serghii Osmana" (the Turkish Exhibition) in gilt letters on a green ground; and above this, completing the elevation, rises a heavy Moresque cornice with ornamental mouldings. Taken as a whole, the building contrasts most favourably with the heavy structure of the Mosque of Achmet, near which it stands; and no little credit is due to Monsieur Bourgeois, the architect, for the good taste he has displayed in rearing this interesting little temple of industry, especially when it is remembered that the Turks are most obstinately opposed to everything in the form of innovation.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

The closing of the Session of the French Legislative Body, which was fixed for the 12th inst., has been extended to the 30th, in order to allow it to get through the business before it.

As the time for the French elections approaches the preparations of the different political parties become daily more active. The Government are determined to make full use of their formidable organisation, and are likely to carry everything before them, owing in great measure to the numerous petty divisions that are breaking out in the Liberal camp.

The *Moniteur*, in its bulletin of Monday, says the Austrian Government having fallen into the views of England and France on the Polish question, an understanding has been established between the three Courts for acting in concert towards the Cabinet of St. Petersburg.

ITALY.

The alleged movements of the Italian "party of action" are still a theme of journalistic debate. The *Opinione* of Turin denies the truth of a rumour that the Italian Government had demanded the removal of any "conspirators" from the canton of Ticino. The Government merely informed the Swiss Federal Council that it was believed certain preparations were being made in Switzerland by the dreaded party of action, and gave the information solely with a view to avert from the Swiss Government the unpleasant complications which might arise in the event of armed bodies from that country invading any neighbouring territory.

PORTUGAL.

The Portuguese Chambers have been prorogued till the 20th of May. It is reported in Lisbon that Prince Auguste is to be married to one of the Princesses of Brazil.

PRUSSIA.

The Government of Prussia has issued a rescript according to which the Polish refugees on Prussian soil are to be sent back to Poland, or, where that is not practicable, they are to be arrested and imprisoned in a fortress. As if this proceeding were not sufficiently unpopular, it is said that the Government intends departing from its passive attitude, and, while admitting that the Chamber of Deputies has the right of voting the Budget, is determined to dispense with its authority and continue to levy the taxes.

The Progress party of Prussia has just determined upon "taking action" in the Chamber of Deputies regarding Denmark, and maintaining that Denmark has violated her pledges of 1850 and 1852. It will be contended, we suppose, that the engagements which Denmark then took with the great Powers referred to Schleswig as well as to Holstein.

RUSSIA.

The municipality of St. Petersburg have presented an address to the Emperor similar in spirit to that tendered by the nobility. The municipal address expresses entire devotion to the Sovereign and a desire to preserve the integrity of the empire.

GREECE.

A deputation from the Chambers has started for Copenhagen in order to offer the crown to Prince William George of Denmark. The vote electing the Prince was passed amid great enthusiasm and cordiality.

CHINA AND JAPAN.

From Hong-Kong we have the particulars of the attack made by the combined force of Ward and the Imperial troops on the city of Tai-Tau and its disastrous defeat. It seems to have been a very badly managed affair, and Captain Holland, who commanded the Ward force, has been replaced by Captain Gordon, R.E. We have also some particulars of the destruction of the new legation building at Jeddo. The hostility of the Japanese is described as being on the increase, and they were gradually preparing for the worst.

WEST COAST OF AFRICA.

From the West Coast of Africa intelligence has been received that there had been a fight between an expedition sent out from Lagos by Governor Freeman and the people of Epe, a place some thirty-five miles from Lagos. A chief, named Popos, had been levying duties on trade within British territory, and the Governor in consequence sent an expedition consisting of forty Hampas, under Major Leveson, and some bluejackets under Commander Lefroy. A battle took place, in which the natives were driven back with severe loss. On the British side one Hampa and two camp followers were killed, and Major Leveson was severely wounded. Subsequently Epe was bombarded and burnt.

THE INSURRECTION IN POLAND.

We have various telegrams from Poland announcing successes obtained by the insurgents and the continued spread of the insurrectionary movement. The most important intelligence, however, comes from St. Petersburg. On the Russian Easter Sunday (12th instant) an Imperial manifesto was issued, granting a full and entire amnesty to all Poles in the kingdom who shall lay down their arms and return to their allegiance by the 13th of May. The same term for laying down their arms and giving in their submission is also fixed for the insurgents in the western Polish provinces, and to all natives of Russia Proper who may have joined the insurrection. The manifesto likewise announces that the institutions granted to the Polish people shall be maintained, and, after practical experience, shall be developed according to the necessities of the age and the country.

The Poles, however, do not seem to be inclined to accept the terms offered by the Czar. Indeed, they utterly distrust the promises made by Russia; and the Polish Revolutionary Government has issued a proclamation declaring that the insurgents will not lay down their arms until the independence of Poland shall have been accomplished. All accounts agree in stating that the proffered amnesty has been a complete failure. The *Czas* of Wednesday states that several fresh engagements have taken place, and that new bands are swarming in the district of Sandomir. In one of the engagements it is stated that 3000 insurgents took part, and that the Russians lost 200 killed and seven guns. The number of the insurgents is, however, probably an exaggeration, as the war is now carried on entirely by small bands starting up everywhere. It is reported that neither the Grand Duke Constantine nor the Marquis Wielopolski will leave Warsaw. The Czar has accepted the resignation of Archbishop Felinski.

Identical despatches from the English, French, and Austrian Governments on the Polish question were to have been presented to the Russian Cabinet on Wednesday. An answer is not expected for ten days, and when it does come its contents will scarcely be of importance. The Emperor of Russia will, no doubt, say that he had granted by anticipation all the requests.

The proclamation of the amnesty to the Poles by the Czar has revived in Paris the decaying interest in the Polish insurrection, and all the journals warmly discuss the merits and demerits of the document. They almost all reject it as a fitting response to the representations of France, England, and Austria. Letters from Vienna state that the agitation is increasing in Galicia. Committees in aid of the Polish insurgents carry on their operations publicly. The movement is directed by a central council, the members of which are unknown. Rumours assert that the Swedes are positively demanding action of a definite kind on behalf of Poland. A Stockholm journal attacks the Ministry for lukewarmness in the affairs of Poland, and calls for an energetic action in the interest of Sweden herself. A meeting held at Christiania had made a deep impression in Sweden, and other meetings are being organised. Russia is believed to be peculiarly indignant at the attitude of the Swedish people.

THE CIVIL WAR IN AMERICA.

We have intelligence from New York to the 4th inst. Both parties were very active on the Mississippi, and the general tenor of the news is decidedly favourable to the Confederates. General Sherman's expedition to the rear of Vicksburg by the Sunflower River had failed, and was under the necessity of returning, having had considerable difficulty in extricating itself from the perils it had encountered. The Federals had abandoned the canal opposite Vicksburg, the Confederate cannon being found to command two-thirds of it. Admiral Farragut's steamers Hartford and Albatross, which alone had been able to pass Port Hudson, the remainder of the fleet being sunk, disabled, or driven back, were in great jeopardy of being captured by the Confederate ironclads. A report from Cairo even states that Admiral Farragut, in the Hartford, had been captured by the Confederates. Two Federal gun-boats had attempted to run past the Vicksburg batteries: one was sunk with all on board, and the other was disabled.

In Tennessee Van Dorn was crossing the river at Palmyra in order to flank General Rosencranz, a movement supposed to be aimed against Kentucky. The Confederate General Forrest had made a dash on Brentwood, nine miles from Nashville, burnt the bridge, taken all the property and arms, and captured 800 prisoners.

Official despatches from Generals Burnside and Gilbert report that the latter defeated the Confederates under General Pegram, at Somerset, Kentucky, on the 30th ult., and forced them to retire across the Cumberland, leaving behind them a large number of the cattle they had seized. The Confederate loss is named at 50 killed and 400 prisoners; and that of the Federals at 30 in killed, wounded, and missing. General Gilbert states that by this victory he has driven the Confederates entirely out of Central Kentucky.

General Saxton, in his official report of the recent negro expedition to Jacksonville, Florida, under Colonels Higginson and Montgomery, for the purpose of arming and inciting the slaves to revolt, states his belief that no incident of the war has caused a greater panic throughout the whole Southern coast. He adds that the negroes are collecting at Jacksonville from all quarters.

Southern accounts say that the Federals had evacuated Pensacola, only holding the Navy-yard and Forts Barrancas and Hyacinthe. The garrison of the town had been sent to reinforce General Banks. The Federal soldiers, who were much disorganised, had burned Pensacola before leaving, notwithstanding the efforts of their officers to prevent them.

A report that the Confederates are evacuating Richmond was discredited by General Dix, writing from Fortress Monroe. The attack on Charleston was still delayed; in the meantime, numerous vessels continued to run the blockade.

The Florida had captured two more Federal schooners. Lord Lyons having heard the case of the owners of the Peterhoff, was, it was said, about to demand reparation from the Federal Government.

It was reported that President Davis is suffering from an abscess of the eye, of which it is feared he may lose the sight.

SIR GEORGE GREY AMONG THE MAORIES.

SIR GEORGE GREY, Governor of New Zealand, paid a visit to the Maori tribes in the interior at the beginning of the year. By half-past seven in the morning of New Year's Day he had left Auckland, accompanied only by an English magistrate and a few natives, on a tour amidst districts which of late have been the hotbed of rebellion. Proceeding through the Waikato country, and admitting some of the native chiefs to an audience, he started at daylight next morning in a large canoe, with a crew of twenty natives, most of whom were chiefs. After a long day's pausing the canoe approached a settlement. The songs of the rowers as they bent to their work had aroused the people of the place; and so they went down to the banks of the river and heard that their old friend was coming, and bade him welcome. Tents were pitched; the news of the visit from "their father" spread through the huts; and by seven in the morning two hundred natives assembled in front of Sir George Grey's encampment. Many of them were warm supporters of the recent King movement; but they stood before the English Governor bareheaded, and, whilst the chiefs professed their loyalty, horses were rapidly saddled to carry him overland to Taupiri. Arriving there early in the day, Sir George pushed on, unattended, to Ngaurawahia, the central stronghold of King, and the place where his flag was first hoisted. The Governor walked quietly about—visited the grave of the chief, old Potatou, and looked with keen and curious interest at the rebel flagstaff, until, at length, the natives recognised him. These poor creatures literally wept as they gathered round, and called him "friend, father, protector of the people." At once messengers darted off to tell every chief in the district that Sir George was amongst them; through the whole night they ran, and, although the Governor had meanwhile returned to Taupiri, the chiefs followed him thither. Squatting on the ground, they awaited his appearance; and then, as soon as he approached, rose to their feet, uncovered their heads, and cried, "Welcome, our old friend!" "Welcome the Governor!" A "public meeting" was at once held. The natives objected to having a steam-boat on their river; Sir George told them that a steam-boat would only do them good; they pleaded that the King movement was a wise one; Sir George warned them that it would result in nothing but evil. It grew late; the Governor was suffering from illness, chiefly caused by exposure to the cold night air during his progress up the river; and so the conference terminated. Utterly exhausted by hard work and incessant travelling, he went to bed, but during the night grew worse; his strength would last no longer, and he was obliged to hurry back to Auckland in search of medical assistance.

IRELAND.

AGRARIAN MURDER IN DONEGAL.—An agrarian murder has been committed in the county of Donegal. The victim, Adam Grierson, was formerly land steward or agent of Mr. Adair, who evicted a large number of persons some time ago in consequence of the prevalence of agrarian outrages on his estate producing a reign of terror among the people and inflicting serious losses upon the tenants by the destruction of their sheep and other property. Since that time the district has been quiet. The present outrage occurred at Glenveagh, from which place a message came to the Letterkenny constabulary early on Saturday morning. Grierson was badly wounded, and has since expired. But, though in a dying state, he was able to identify a man named Bradley, whom the constabulary had arrested on suspicion, as the person who fired at him. It is said that he had received repeated "warnings" of his fate in consequence of his alleged overzeal in the discharge of his duties to his employer.

SOLICITATION TO MURDER.—An extraordinary trial took place in the Commission Court, Dublin, on Saturday, before Barons Fitzgerald and Hughes. Joseph Harcourt, a young man of respectable appearance, was arraigned on a charge of soliciting two men to murder a gentleman named Dickinson, who resided near Newry. It was deposed that the prisoner went into the house of a dealing man in that town some time in Lent, and began to complain that Mr. Dickinson had treated his wife badly, and suggested to the owner of the house in question that he (Dickinson) should be put out of the way. The witnesses, who swore to these statements, added that Harcourt had offered him £10 if he would put Mr. Dickinson out of the way, or get some one to do it, and that he considered Harcourt, with whom he was well acquainted, could not have been in his right senses in making him such an offer. Harcourt also said, according to the statement of the witness, that he would be playing chess in a room with Mr. Dickinson, and that the latter could be "popped" through the window. The prisoner was found guilty and sentenced to ten years' penal servitude.

THE CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY.—The Catholic University of Ireland and the "National Brotherhood of St. Patrick" have just come before the world asking for one another. A Mr. Doran writes to the papers, in the name of the latter institution, to say that the Catholic University has seriously disappointed the intentions of its most liberal founders and supporters in not doing more for Irish nationality. His Grace Dr. Cullen was ready enough to assist at raising the Irish brigade for the defence of the Pope, but he has openly discouraged and denounced any similar organisation for the defence of

Ireland. But the Archbishop and the other governors of the University have committed a still graver offence in Mr. Doran's estimation. They do not take the students through a course of Irish history, and so keep alive the ancient and intolerable wrongs of their country and the vengeance still due from its Saxon conquerors and oppressors. The outrages committed by the rioters of Cork and the students of the Catholic University Mr. Doran justifies on the ground that it was improper to acquiesce in any signs of rejoicing so long as Ireland does not stand as high as she ought to stand, and many of her people are famished.

THE PROVINCES.

SHOCKING ACCIDENT TO AN ACTRESS.—During the performance of the "Peep o' Day" at the New Adelphi Theatre, Liverpool, last week, a Miss Elton, who represented the character of Ann Kavanagh, fell from a considerable height on to the stage, and sustained very serious injuries. Both the young lady's legs are broken, and she at present lies in a dangerous state. The nature of the injuries are such as to prevent Miss Elton (should she recover) from ever following her profession again.

TOO HOT TO HOLD HIM.—A few days since the Surrey foxhounds met at Locksbottom, Farnborough. In a covert close to Crofton-place a brace of foxes was unkenelled. The pack settled to one of them (a dog), taking away over the road to Crofton Woods, and after a run of 2½ hours he was killed at Norstead. In Langley Park found again, took round the meadows to Bromley station, crossing Wickham, on his way to Picketts-green, where just before the hounds a sheep dog cour d'ed the fox straight to a lone cottage, and the door being open, in bolted poor pug, clearing at a bound the fire with a pot on it, and scrambled right up the chimney. This place of refuge was, however, literally "too hot to hold him," and in about half an hour he was got down and killed by the hounds.

FATAL COLLIERY ACCIDENT.—On Saturday morning, the 11th inst., at about six o'clock, the engine of the Wern Colliery, Baglit, near Holywell, was put in motion, with the view of winding up the colliers, who had been working during the night; but, through the signal-bell not being properly placed, the engine was allowed to wind up the bucket containing the colliers so far as to bring it in contact with the wheel and turn it upside down, shooting three of the men back into the pit, where they met with an immediate and melancholy death. A fourth collier saw his danger in time to jump out of the bucket, but sustained such severe injuries in doing so as to endanger his life, his leg being broken, besides other internal injuries. The two engineers—viz., Edward Redfern and Edwin Powell, were immediately taken into custody, but bailed in two sureties of £50 each to appear and answer the charge.

EXTRAORDINARY CASE OF HORSESTEALING.—On Saturday morning last a man was seen to enter the town of Bishop Stortford on horseback, whose movements attracted the attention of the police, and while they were thus engaged one of the Cambridgeshire constabulary came in by the morning train, and gave information that two men had been brutally ill-treated at Sixmile-bottom, near Newmarket, the assailant knocking one off a horse at Sixmile-bottom, then jumping on the animal's back and riding off, at the same time threatening to murder them if they followed him. Mr. Inspector Ryder, suspecting that the offender was the man he had been watching, went to the George Hotel, and in the stables found the man giving instructions to the ostler, when he informed him that he should apprehend him on the charge of stealing the horse, and also with the intent to murder. The fellow assumed a consequential air, and threatened to ruin the inspector if he did so, although he admitted that he had that morning come from Newmarket, but when Mr. Ryder intimated his intention to execute his duty the ruffian resisted with such determined violence as to make it necessary to handcuff him, and in this manner he was conveyed to the police-station, when he gave his name as William Beaumont Hotham, of 9, Alfred-place, Bedford-square, London, and described himself as a gentleman.

DEATH OF SIR GEORGE C. LEWIS.

THE Government has sustained a severe loss by the wholly unexpected death of Sir George Cornwall Lewis, Secretary of State for the War Department. He retired to the country to take his brief Easter holiday, he caught a cold, the cold brought on congestion of the lungs, the attack became serious on Sunday, and he died at two o'clock on Monday afternoon, the day when Parliament reassembled.

Sir George Cornwall Lewis was in the fifty-eighth year of his age, having been born in October, 1806. His father was the late Sir Thomas Frankland Lewis, who, having filled several offices in the State, among which, as indicating the hereditary nature of some of the son's tastes, we may mention those of Secretary to the Treasury, Vice-President of the Board of Trade, and Treasurer of the Navy, received, in 1846, the reward of a baronetcy. His mother was the daughter of another Baronet, Sir George Cornwall, after whom he was named. The honour of having educated him belongs to the two schools which, the one for boys and the other for young men, have won the most renown in England—Eton and Christchurch, Oxford. He went to Oxford in 1824, and he took his Bachelor's degree in 1828.

It was as a scholar that Sir George became first known to the public, his earliest literary production being a translation of Müller's work on "The History and Antiquities of the Doric Race," which, in conjunction with his friend Mr. Tufnell, he brought out in 1830. He was one of the first, if not the first, to place fairly before the public the methods and results of the German criticism of history, and he became, at a later day, the principal expositor of Niebuhr's doctrine. His "Inquiry into the Credibility of Early Roman History" is a masterly work that seems to exhaust the subject, and certainly places in the clearest light and most admirable order masses of research which are scattered through many unreadable volumes. He himself did not rival the German writers in the invention of new theories, but he rivalled the best of them in learning, and he surpassed them frequently in clearness of statement and in soundness of judgment. Nor do his books alone indicate the full extent of his labours in this direction of ancient learning. His handwriting may be constantly traced in many of the periodicals which devote their pages to the criticism of ancient writers. It is impossible to look at any list of the works of Sir George Lewis without seeing the sternness of the labour which he loved to encounter. We may mention particularly his treatise "On the Origin and Formation of the Romance Languages," and various volumes, "On the Influence of Authority in Matters of Opinion," "On the Use and Abuse of Political Terms," "On Local Disturbances and the Irish Church Question," "On the Government of Dependencies," and "On the Method of Observation and Reasoning in Politics." Quite recently Sir George published an elaborate work "On the Astronomy of the Ancients," and it is but the other day that there issued from the press his "Dialogue on the Best Form of Government."

Sir George Lewis did not enter Parliament till 1847, when he was forty-one years of age; but he had already had some taste of official life. He was a member of the Middle Temple, and was called to the Bar in 1831, though he never practised, probably from a sense of his deficiency as a speaker, which he was long in overcoming. In 1835 he was employed in the commissions which were appointed to inquire into the relief of the poor and into the state of the Church in Ireland. In the next year he was on the Commission of Inquiry into the affairs of Malta. In 1839 he succeeded his father as a Poor Law Commissioner, and in 1847, the date of his entry into Parliament, he was made Secretary to the Board of Control. In the following year he went to the Home Office, where he held the post of Under Secretary, and in 1850 he became one of the Secretaries to the Treasury, where he remained till the dissolution of Lord John Russell's Cabinet, and where he acquired a great reputation for financial ability. He did not return to office until Lord Palmerston formed his first Administration in 1855, and in this interval of his official life he edited the *Edinburgh Review*. He joined Lord Palmerston's Cabinet, in succession to Mr. Gladstone, as Chancellor of the Exchequer, and he had now an opportunity of showing whether, as chief, he could turn to good account the financial ability which in a subordinate grade he had exercised to the public advantage. He proved to be an excellent Chancellor of the Exchequer, and, spite of his rather heavy style of speaking, he was able, by the excellence of his matter, to render his Budgets acceptable. Often since he ceased to be Chancellor has the City longed to have him back again at the Treasury. In Lord Palmerston's second administration he was placed in the Home Office. On the death of Lord Herbert he was removed to the War Office, and undertook to master its innumerable details. The wonder is to note with what ease Sir George Lewis passed from one office to another, and from one sphere of labour to another of quite a different kind. As we note such versatility and such indomitable perseverance we are forced to one thought, with the expression of which we may conclude this notice. It is that, though he has died before his time, he cannot be

said not to have done his work. He has done the work of twenty men, and done it well.

Sir George Lewis married, in 1844, Lady Maria Theresa Villiers, sister of Lord Clarendon. He has had no children, and he is succeeded in the baronetcy by his only brother.

THE LOSS OF THE ORPHEUS.

THE loss of a ship-of-war, with her captain and two-thirds of her crew, is happily an event in modern days as rare as it is appalling. The public, however, has just learnt that one of the finest corvettes of her Majesty's Navy has been totally wrecked in fair weather and broad daylight, and that of the 256 officers, seamen, and marines who composed her crew 71 only are now surviving. The Orpheus was a new vessel, of 1700 tons and 400-horse power, carrying 21 heavy guns. On the 31st of January last she left Sydney for New Zealand, and duly arrived off the coast of that country, after a fine passage, on the morning of Saturday, the 7th of February. She was then about eight miles off the bar of the Manukau. The Manukau Harbour is a large harbour on the west coast of the North Island, approached by a narrow entrance divided into distinct channels. Its northern shore is formed by the territory of Auckland, the capital of the settlement being on the eastern coast, at no great distance from the Manukau water. To enter this harbour it is necessary to cross a bar—a dangerous operation at all times, and peculiarly so on the west coast of New Zealand, where the sands composing the bars at the rivers' mouths are perpetually shifting, and where a west or south-west wind drives a tremendous sea upon the shore. So well are the perils of the Manukau passage known that preparations are made as if for a desperate adventure before it is attempted. A correspondent says that, as a merchant steamer in which he was a passenger prepared to take the bar, the captain "sent all the ladies below, had the ports and deadlights shut down, and required all the other passengers to take refuge on the bridge of the steamer. The third mate and an able-bodied seaman were lashed to the wheel, while two more were placed in the mizen shrouds ready to take the helm if the others were washed away." Such was the run for which the Orpheus had to prepare herself on Feb. 7.

It does not appear that any of the precaution a requisite on such an occasion were neglected or omitted. As the corvette neared the bar, at mid-day, "the hands were on deck, the ropes manned for shortening sail, the Commodore, Commander, and Master on the bridge, leadsmen in both chains, spare tiller shipped with relieving tackles hooked, and six men stationed; gratings and hatchway-covers were placed ready for battening down." The ship was under all plain sail, but steam had been got up in two boilers, and she was steered exactly according to the courses laid down in the sailing directions provided for her use. In this way they approached the bar. It had been high water at 12.20; a south-west wind was blowing on the coast, but not heavily, though "with occasional slight squalls," and on the bar itself "there was nothing more to see," says Lieutenant Hill, one of the surviving officers, "in the shape of rollers or sea on than I had been led to expect." From the pilot station, too, on shore, the signal "Take the bar," had been flying ever since 11.30. All things, therefore, seem to have been right, and yet, in a few minutes, the Orpheus was a wreck. She touched ground slightly in the after part at 1.30, when the order was given to put all steam on. Ten minutes afterwards she struck forward, and "Astern, full speed!" was now the order; but this time neither engines nor screw could be moved an inch. The rest is simply a narrative of disaster, heroism, and death. In an instant the ship broached to, with her head to the north, lurching heavily to port, and the rollers setting in from the west made a clean sweep of her deck.

The Commodore ordered the port guns to be thrown overboard, and the ship was actually lightened of four of them. Then the cutter was manned and lowered, and was sent off in charge of a midshipman with the private signals, the public records, and the ship's books. With great difficulty she got clear of the ship; but, as her course was watched from the deck, it was thought she had been swamped, and the pinnace was ordered off, with Lieutenant Hill and the Paymaster, to the cutter's assistance. These two boats were saved, and were enabled, fortunately, to return with effectual though tardy assistance. Just about the time the Orpheus struck the bar a steam-boat, called the Wonga-Wonga, was coming out of the harbour by the south channel. She had been seen as early as two o'clock, but it was some time before she could be brought to the aid of the wreck. The boats of the Orpheus fell in with a pilot-boat, and, after taking the master and some of his Maori crew to their assistance and sending off the paymaster in charge of some sick men to the shore, they succeeded by desperate efforts in gaining the steamer's attention and closing with her. She then took them both in tow, and they repaired to the wreck, but it was now six p.m. The masts of the ill-fated corvette were still standing, but the sea was sweeping in huge rollers over her, and the crew had been driven for refuge to the rigging above the tops. Their only hope of life was to jump into the boiling surf on the chance of being picked up by the boats, which dropped down to within thirty or forty yards of them, and in this way a certain number was saved. The others were lost as the masts went and the ship broke up, but there was no loss of discipline or courage. All remained at their posts and did their duty to the last, giving three cheers when the masts went, "as if taking farewell of life." The captain fell overboard with one of the masts, received a blow on the head from a spar, and stirred no more. Night soon closed in upon the scene, and when daylight broke once more a stump of one mast and a few ribs were all that could be seen of the Orpheus.

It is alleged that recent alterations of the bar at Manukau Harbour were not marked upon the chart supplied to the Orpheus, although known to the officials at the Admiralty; that the passage marked as safe on the chart is now impracticable; and hence the wreck of this fine ship.

THE POISONING OF FRENCH SOLDIERS IN MEXICO.

THE French troops have but just recovered from the excitement of late judicial inquiry by the council of war into the plot (which had nearly succeeded) for poisoning a number of their comrades.

Mexican treachery had discovered the readiest method of dealing with the warriors who, even in such unhealthy quarters as those of Vera Cruz, will devote themselves to the gaiety and gallantry which are their lively characteristics all over the world.

As "Paris is France," so it may be said that a French soldier will take Paris with him wherever he may be located; will contrive to have his theatre, his dancing, his *petit verre*, even his temporary Champs Elysees, if any substitute for the original can be found. For some time past the most popular place of entertainment with many of the men was a lively cabaret, where amusements were provided, consisting of music, performing monkeys, and other attractions. To these agreeable diversions from dull garrison life they were introduced by the agents of a certain Emanuel Gonzales, who was in fact the promoter of the establishment, and at the same time a well-known guerrilla chief.

Strange symptoms, however, began to be observable in some of the most frequent customers, and on a certain morning three artillerymen were reported to be writhing in frightful agony, their faces blackened and distorted, and their groans eliciting universal compassion.

The report of secret poisoning was circulated so rapidly, and created such fierce resentment, that only the utmost energy on the part of the officers could prevent prompt and signal vengeance being taken on the supposed offenders.

While means were being taken for the recovery of the sufferers, however, inquiries were instituted which resulted in the arrest, the same evening, of four men and four women on suspicion of being the guilty persons, who had overwhelmed the guests at the cabaret with demonstrations of hospitality and affection, the host even refusing to receive payment for their drink. It came out in the course of the examination that the men were enticed by this generous hospitality of Gonzales and his employes, that they passed an evening in cordial fraternisation, when the guerrilla suddenly left the house, and, as has since been discovered, the city also. It was remembered, too,

that the Mexicans drank from separate bottles, reserving the poisoned wine for their visitors, who were so nearly paying the penalty of too good fellowship. The evidence was taken with the utmost care; the prisoners were provided with counsel for their defence, and the questions were asked in regular legal form. Thanks to the care of the medical staff, none of the sufferers have succumbed to the effects of the fatal drug, but have been able to stand face to face with the suspected criminals and to give their evidence in the case. Our engraving represents the sitting of the council, under the direction of Lieut.-Colonel Mangin, the president; Vasse Saint-Ouen, chief of the squadron, and Captain Baabe.

The accused are Emanuel Gonzales, who is still at liberty, but who is condemned to death in the event of his capture; Bartola Benders, his principal agent; and Justo Passos, an inferior officer of the guerrilla chieftain, both of these being condemned to capital punishment. Antonia Zamudio, a woman of forty-five, who, it seems, had taken the principal part in the festivities of the cabaret, is condemned to the galleys for life; while Roman Zamudio and his accomplice, Carmona, are destined, the former to ten and the latter to five years at the Bagne. The three remaining women were known as the three Dolores. Of these Dolores, Barajas is condemned to ten years' imprisonment; Dolores Areiano has been set at liberty, there not being sufficient evidence to convict her of participation in the crime. Dolores Carbajal is still retained in custody. It is discovered that she and Gonzales had previously kept a cabaret at Soledad, which may account for some part of the mortality attributed to the climate and the epidemic under which the men were suffering.

THE BALLET OF THE BEES.

AT a late bal costume given by their Imperial Majesties at the Tuileries, the usual representations or misrepresentations of characters, historical, romantic, and allegorical, were agreeably diversified by a lively episode, in which a genuine but amateur ballet was introduced with startling effect. The occasion was a grand and brilliant one, the Empress herself appearing among the guests habited as a Dogaresse, while the fancies of some ladies of the French Court found ample scope in discovering the proper costumes for representing such difficult embodiments as fire, and the elements in general. But the great triumph of the evening was the Ballet of Bees, and it was devised with all the exquisite taste which characterises Parisian arrangement.

At a given signal four enormous beehives, ornamented with garlands, were drawn into the ballroom, and, at the first notes of the orchestra, there emerged from each of these hives three of the most charming bees ever beheld by mortal eyes—bees who had been transformed by magic and the art of M. Merante, the ballet-master, into beautiful girls, capable of executing the most enchanting and difficult terpsichorean feats ever confided to amateurs, or enhanced by the framework of the violet wreaths which they held in their hands and used so gracefully in every pose. The costumes, which were supposed still to intimate the previous insect-existence of the fair danseuses, differed only in form, and probably in length of skirt, from those worn in a similar ballet at the opera. The names of the distinguished performers are, in their re-vivified, transmogrified, and most charming stage of existence, the Princess Troubakoi, Mdle. Nelidoff, Mdme. Cossens, Mdme. Magnan, the Baroness de Vetry, Mdle. Kinskioff, Mdme. de Soukhsaneth, Mdle. Hortense de Tascher, the Princess N. Dolgorouki, the Baroness Molitor, Mdme. Brincard, and Mdme. Péreira.

The importance attached to these Court balls causes all the recognised leaders of fashion to repeat such entertainments on a scale of similar magnificence. The Prince de la Moskowa, Aide-de-Camp to the Emperor Napoleon, gave a grand fancy-dress ball on the night of Mardi-Gras, at his residence in the Rue de Marignan. The Duchess de Morny and Mdme. de Girardin represented white rose-trees, the drops of dew being formed of diamonds. Princess de Metternich wore the dress of an "Incroyable" under the Directory. About midnight a great bustle suddenly arose, and a village wedding-party made their appearance. The happy bride was represented by a senator, and the Mayor, the gendarmes, and the guests, all admirably dressed, by Counts, Dukes, and Princes. The party then danced an extraordinary quadrille, amid loud shouts of laughter. Two dominoes were said to conceal two august personages who had come to give to the fête the éclat of their presence.

The following is a more detailed and authentic account of the masquerade at the Tuileries, represented in our Engraving:—

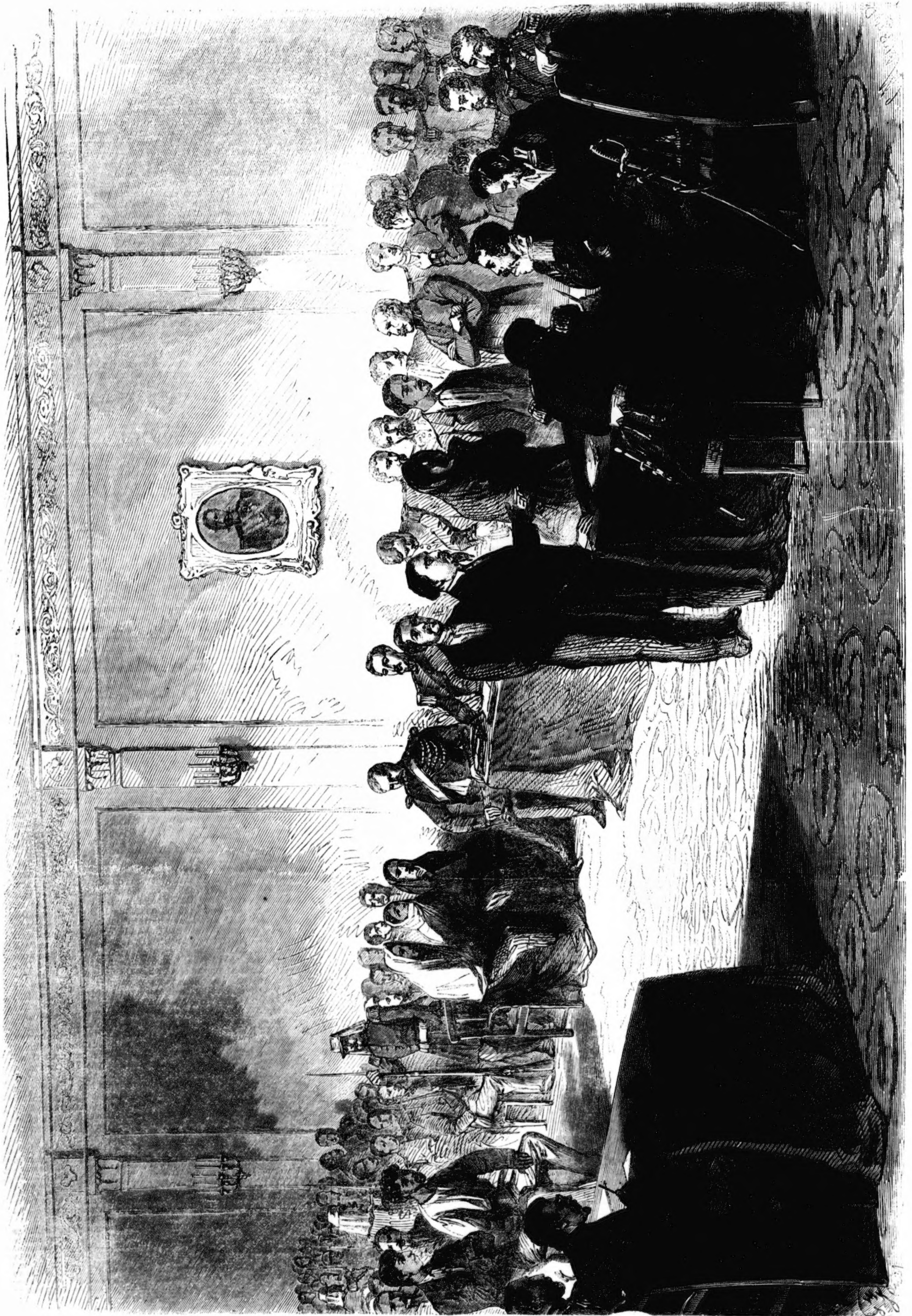
Not more than six hundred invitations had been sent, so that the company was unusually select; still it embraced all the highest personages in Paris. The Empress was attired as a Venetian lady of the middle ages, her dress, crimson and black, being covered with sequins interspersed with diamonds. The Emperor wore a Venetian mantle of white and crimson; and it was remarked that several high dignitaries had on a somewhat similar costume. The Prince Imperial, in black vest and continuations, with crimson stockings and Venetian mantle, remained in the rooms until eleven. The Princess Mathilde, representing Ann of Cleves as seen in Holbein's picture in the Louvre, had her dress covered with an immense quantity of magnificent emeralds. The Princess Clothilde, in gold brocade, wore her hair arranged with powder; and the Princess Augusta Bonaparte had on the dress of a Syrian woman; the Countess de Persigny represented Fire; Mdme. A. de Rothschild was a Bird of Paradise; Mdme. Emile de Girardin, in the costume of the Isle of Ceylon, had her dress covered with white and black pearls; and the Countess O. Aguado appeared as a Pack of Cards, Count De Demidoff appeared as the Son of Night, and were the Sancy diamond; Count De Komar, as Louis XIII.; and the Duc de Montmoreau, as Mephistopheles. The Quadrille des Abeilles produced the greatest possible effect. A number of gardeners of Louis XIV. arrived, bearing on litters large beehives, from which, when put down, there issued a number of young and beautiful women, winged, to represent a swarm of bees; they immediately took up position, and went through a charming series of dances, composed by Merante, of the French Opera. The success of the fair performers was immense. Their Majesties remained with face uncovered until twelve, when, it is believed, they went through the rooms masked and in other dresses. The cotillon, led by the Marquis De Caux as a Caucasian, did not terminate until five in the morning. The Countess De Castiglione was attired as Salambo, with her hair given to the wind, a golden diadem above, bare arms, and naked feet in golden sandals. The long train of her robe was borne by the Count De Choiseul as a negro, who held an antique parasol over her head. The dazzling beauty of the Countess never ceased to captivate general attention.

THE CITY POLICE FORCE.—The City is bestirring itself in earnest to resist the threatened interference with its ancient privileges in the amalgamation of its police force with that of the metropolitan district. On Monday wardmotes were held in nearly every ward of the City, and at all of them the same strong feeling was expressed to resist the attempt at amalgamation threatened in Sir De Lacy Evans' motion, backed though it be by the whole force of the Government. In all former contests of this nature it was not the City that fared the worst in the encounter.

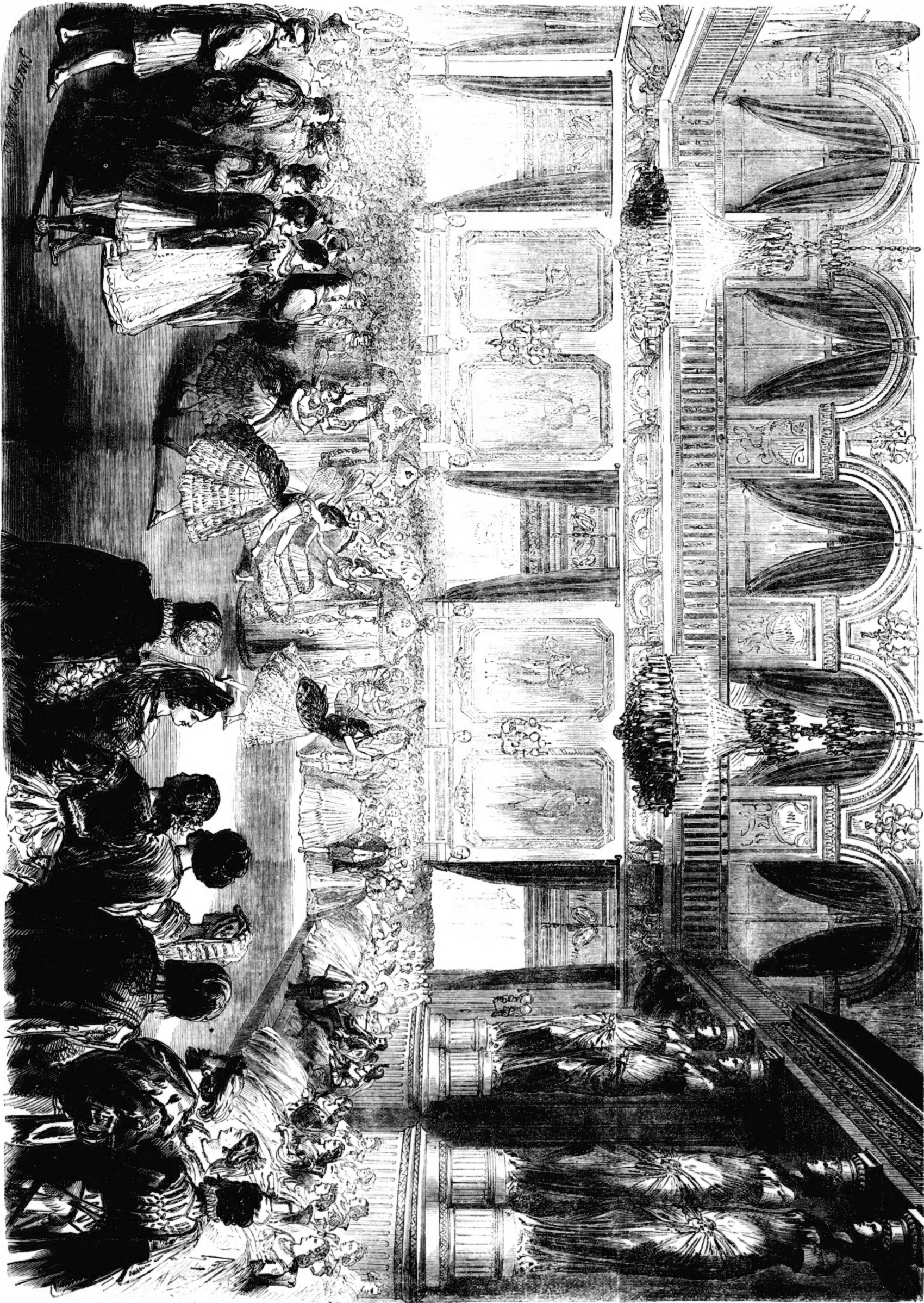
THE ACCIDENTS AT THE ILLUMINATIONS.—The Queen and the Prince of Wales have together sent £125 to the Lord Mayor to be distributed among those who suffered by accidents during the illuminations on the marriage of the Prince. For this sum the claimants are stated by his Lordship to be innumerable, a large number of the applicants, however, having suffered very trifling injuries. Under these circumstances, his Lordship wished to hand the money over to a committee of the Corporation for distribution. The Aldermen, however, on behalf of the committee, declined to accede to this proposal, and left the Lord Mayor to get over the difficulty as best he could.

ANOTHER STEAMER has escaped from an English port to the Confederate service. Some sailors engaged for the Japan, at Liverpool, betrayed the secret, and the United States' Consul at once telegraphed to Mr. Adams. Orders were sent from London to stop the vessel, then lying at Greenock; but, unfortunately, the United States' Consul had forgotten to mention her port. The orders were, therefore, sent to Liverpool, and the vessel, now named the Virginia got away before the mistake could be rectified. The ship has since been met at sea by another vessel, armed, and dispatched on a cruise.

A FATAL EXPLOSION OCCURRED ON WEDNESDAY MORNING in the corn-mill of the Ewell powder-factory, near Epsom. The building was utterly destroyed, and three men who were in it at the time were killed. The cause of the explosion remains a mystery.



THE FRENCH IN MEXICO.—EXAMINATION OF PRISONERS CHARGED WITH AN ATTEMPT TO POISON THE TROOPS AT VERA CRUZ.



GRAND FANCY-DRESS BALL GIVEN BY THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH AT THE TUILERIES.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 206.

RE-OPENING OF PARLIAMENT.

THE Easter holidays are over, and the House is again in Session. On Monday, at the usual hour, the Speaker entered, prayers were said by the Chaplain, and we fell into the old ruck of business, just as if we had never been away. We were glad to see Mr. Merivale, the Chaplain, again in his place. For some weeks before the holidays he was detained in the country by an illness which at one time threatened to be serious. Lord Palmerston did not show on the first night, nor did the Chancellor of the Exchequer make his appearance. He is busy trying, by diligent application of lotions, to obliterate the marks of his fall against Thursday. The principal object of the members on Monday seemed to be to get places in the galleries for their friends on Thursday, the Budget night. As early as ten o'clock in the morning, before the Speaker's Gallery Book was opened, members were waiting to put down their names for places, and long before the opening of the House the list was full. Orders for the Strangers' Gallery were at a premium last week; and as to the Peers' seats under the Gallery, none but Government officials of high standing or persons of rank could hope to get promise of places there. This has been hitherto a humdrum Session; we have not had one really exciting night since the Queen's Speech was delivered. A cloud of dullness at present hangs over the future, and it is not wonderful that there should be anxiety to get places on what promised to be the one interesting performance of the Session.

DULLNESS.

And here we may remark that this is really an extraordinary Session. In the first place, note how advanced we are in the Supplies. The Army and Navy votes are all netted. Four books of the Civil Service Estimates have been disposed of; only three remain to be gone through—hardly a night's work; and half the Session not gone. We have no recollection of anything like this within the last dozen years. Neither do the orders of the day promise us much work. There is scarcely one important measure on the books. Rumour says that there are no departmental bills in preparation; and, in short, every sign seems to indicate that it would not be difficult for us to finish our work and get up for once in July. But we must not halloo before we are out of the wood. Who can tell what rocks may be ahead of us? Parliament is the most uncertain place in the world. Here emphatically we know not what a day may bring forth. When the Orpheus struck there was fine weather overhead, smooth water below, harbour in sight; and who knows what shoals, and sunken rocks, and storms may be ahead of the Government! At present we see no signs of danger—not a cloud as big as a man's hand. Everybody says nothing is to happen. But a squall may suddenly arise, or a bolt may come out of the blue; and suddenly the Ministry may be wrecked and dissolve.

THE CAUSE.

But is there not a cause for all this dullness, this unprecedented inertia in the House of Commons? Of course there is; for nothing happens without a cause. Happens! Properly speaking, nothing happens; for "to happen" means to come by chance, and chance is a fiction. There is no chance. Everything has a cause, if we can but trace it. Well, the cause of this deadness, this dullness, this inertia which has seized upon the House of Commons, we take to be the present state of parties. As the stranger in the gallery looks down upon the House, he sees the members divided into two sections by the broad passage up the middle, and he is told that on the right of the Speaker's chair sits the Liberal party, and on the left the Conservative. Of the former he learns Lord Palmerston is chief, whilst of the latter Mr. Disraeli is leader; and, when the House is full, it seems to him (the stranger) that these two parties are nearly equal in numbers, for every place is occupied, on the right and on the left. On neither side is there either special crowding indicating superiority of forces, or gaps showing weakness. This is now it strikes the stranger, and it seems to him unaccountable that these two opposing forces do not come into collision; and if things were as they seem to be to the stranger, a collision would be inevitable, and the result would be, we think, the defeat of the Government and the advent to power of Disraeli and his friends. But things are not as they seem. On the contrary, beneath all the appearance of order there is the direst confusion, and on both sides of the House the most chaotic antagonisms, threatening dissolution, are actively at work. In short, party in the House of Commons seems to be, on both sides, in a state of solution, altogether out of tune. Nor does there appear at present any likelihood of its getting resolved into harmony. Thus, then, is the cause of this inactivity—neither of the party chiefs can depend upon his followers, and both are, therefore, forced to inactivity. Each is conscious that his army is demoralised, and neither dare venture upon a battle. But what is the cause of this demoralisation—the *causa causæ*, as we may say? Well, that is a long story. It would take many columns to set forth all the causes (for there are more than one) of this strange state of things. But we may say, generally, that now, as heretofore, it is the collision between the old and the new that is producing and keeping up this chaotic effervescence. On the Liberal side it is so. *Punch* has lately been chaffing the Conservatives on their disagreements, but there are antagonisms equally strong on the other side. For if Liberal-Conservative Disraeli is pestered and hampered by dogged old Toryism, as represented by Bentinck and others, so Conservative-Liberal Palmerston is teased and worried by restless Radicalism, which is everlastingly pushing him in the flank and urging him to move on. Palmerston is worried by the new, Disraeli is tethered, and clogged, and hampered by the old. But there are other forms of these forces besides those which we have mentioned. There is Church-of-Englandism fighting against the persistent encroachments of Dissent. There is Protestantism striving against the untiring aggressions of the Pope, &c. Indeed, the restless movements of parties in the House just now are like the play of light upon a prism, and for subtlety and eccentricity of movement are wholly unprecedented. What it will all end in it is impossible to say; perhaps in the entire disruption of the old parties and the formation of something new. To this matters seem tending. However, all allow that nothing will be done until Palmerston shall move off the stage. After him, Goodness only knows what will come. Some have said, After him, the deluge; as if all would go to ruin then. But we have no apprehension of this. There will be changes, doubtless; and, relieved of such a flywheel, the Government machine may be shaky for a time, but we shall soon find another, no doubt.

ABSENTEES.

Where are Mr. Bernal Osborne and Mr. Horsman? The one has not appeared at all this Session, the other has only glanced through the House once. To these questions no certain answer can be given. Report says that Horsman is not very well; and, as there is nothing specially attractive here, he has gone abroad to recruit his health. And that Osborne is in Ireland, Cincinnatus-like, managing a farm of his there, and that there he will stay until the State shall require his services, and send for him. This is passing strange, seeing what subjects we have had before the House—the Army and Navy estimates, on which he is usually so voluble; fortifications, which he so fiercely opposed last year; armour-clad ships, on which he is such a learned authority. Could none of these topics tempt him from his rural retreat? It is whispered that he is tired of public life, disgusted with the neglect which he has had to endure, and does not mean to show at all this year. We trust, however, that it is not so.

DEATH OF SIR GEORGE LEWIS.

Sir George Lewis is dead! Such is the dire news that met us when we entered the lobby on Tuesday evening. Sir George Lewis dead? Impossible! But as we proceeded every one that we met repeated the same mournful refrain. And at length all doubt was dispelled. Indeed, when we came to look around in the lobby, it was easy to see that something uncommon and serious had occurred; members stood in clusters, eagerly talking, and yet with such a sorrowful shadow over their faces that if you had not heard the intelligence you would have divined that something sad had occurred. Of course the first feeling was that the House should adjourn. Some, indeed, refused to go in to make a House; but all agreed that the sitting, if the House was made, should promptly close. At first it

was thought that Lord Palmerston would move the adjournment; but against this arrangement there were objections. Ministers of the Crown are obliged to be careful how they establish precedents; so, after some little time spent in conference, it was determined that a member of the Opposition should move the adjournment, and that Mr. Walpole should be the man. And the choice was appropriate and happy, for Mr. Walpole and Sir George were schoolfellows; and, though political opponents, have always been friends. Mr. Walpole, then, when the time came, rose. Mr. Charles Buxton, who had a motion on the paper, rose at the same time; but loud calls were uttered for Mr. Walpole, and Mr. Buxton promptly gave way. Mr. Walpole's speech was very short and almost inaudible. Lord Palmerston seconded the motion, and his speech was still shorter. Indeed, it was no time for speech-making. When his Lordship sat down and the question had not been put, Mr. Disraeli arose and uttered a few words of panegyric, not very well conceived, as we thought, and certainly they fell flat upon the House. The question was then again put and carried, and the members dispersed. Sir George has, like many other statesmen who have gone before him, killed himself by overwork. The doctors say it was inaction of the liver; but the primary cause was overwork. This event has shocked and surprised the country. But, though shocked, we are not surprised. We have for two Sessions past seen that Sir George had laid upon himself a burden too heavy for his strength.

Imperial Parliament.

MONDAY, APRIL 13.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

SUPPLY.—THE CIVIL SERVICE ESTIMATES.

The House of Commons assembled on Monday for the first time since the Easter recess.

On the order of the day for going into Committee on the Civil Service Estimates, classes 1, 3, 4, 5, and 7.

Mr. AUGUSTUS SMITH rose and complained of the growing disposition on the part of the Government to take the House by surprise in voting the public money. In the present instance the Estimates had not been in the hands of members more than two or three days. With a view to imposing a check, therefore, he moved as an amendment that the Estimates in class 1 be referred to a Select Committee.

The motion having been seconded by Sir J. TRELAUNY, Mr. F. PEEL repudiated the imputation of a desire to take the House by surprise, and said that, if the House would consent to proceed with the votes in class 3, to none of which was there any objection, he was quite willing to postpone the first class.

After some further discussion, the amendment was withdrawn, and the House went into Committee on class 3, the various items of which were agreed to. The House then resumed.

ORDERS OF THE DAY.

The Local Government Act (1858) Amendment Bill passed through Committee.

The Telegraphs Bill, as amended, was considered and agreed to. The Lords' amendments to the Salmon Exportation Bill were considered and agreed to.

Sir H. Willoughby obtained leave to bring in a bill to consolidate and amend the laws relating to the internal management of savings banks.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

AUGMENTATION OF BENEFICES BILL.

On the order for nominating the Select Committee on this bill, Lord ST. LEONARDS expressed a doubt whether it was in the power of the Lord Chancellor to divest himself of the patronage of those livings without the sanction of the Crown. His own impression was that the livings were vested in the Crown, and that the Lord Chancellor was simply a trustee, and his patronage on the same footing as that of the Prime Minister. He approved of the principle of the bill; but, on examining the details, he was of opinion that it would be necessary to exercise great care and caution before adopting the scheme of the Government.

The Earl of DERBY observed that he had carefully gone through the provisions of the bill, and the more he considered them the more apprehensive he was that the Lord Chancellor had taken too sanguine a view of their operation. The measure proposed to obtain aid in the augmentation of some livings from the common fund at the disposal of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners. At the present moment the commissioners were endeavouring to raise the value of all livings the population of which was equal to 10,000 to £300 per annum. If, therefore, any portion of the funds at their disposal were withdrawn, it would be impossible for them to carry out that object. Upon looking into the schedule of the bill he found that, out of 320 livings proposed to be dealt with, there were 314 which had only an average population of 376. Of the 314, 139 had only an average population of 300, whilst in seven cases the population was under 50. There was not, therefore, so much necessity for augmenting these as the more populous livings which the Commissioners were dealing with. The whole project appeared to him to be surrounded with difficulty, and his own opinion was that greater advantages would ensue if, instead of divesting himself of the patronage of the livings which were of the least value, the Lord Chancellor would bring into the market the more valuable portions of his patronage, and apply the produce to the augmentation of small livings.

The LORD CHANCELLOR said that his only object was to secure a useful measure. He agreed that there ought to be no interference with the action of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners; but he only proposed to call in their aid in cases which, even without the present bill, would naturally attract their attention. With regard to the suggestion of the noble Earl, he would be glad to accept it if it were possible, but it was not. The Select Committee was then named.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DEATH OF SIR GEORGE C. LEWIS.

Mr. WALPOLE, expressing his deep sorrow at the death of Sir George Lewis, and his sympathy with the loss which the House had sustained, moved that, out of respect to his memory, the House do adjourn.

Lord PALMERSTON, in a few broken sentences, seconded the motion.

Mr. DISRAELI said that the Queen had lost one of her ablest servants, and the House one of its most respected members; and in appropriate language described the eminent qualities of a statesman who was an example to the rising generation of public men, and whose loss would be deeply felt by the country.

The motion was agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

DISTRESS IN THE NORTH.

Sir G. GREY stated that the Government proposed to fix the 27th inst. for the discussion of the question concerning the distress in the cotton-manufacturing districts.

BURIAL BILL.

An interesting debate took place upon the motion for the second reading of Sir Morton Peto's Burial Bill, the object of which is to allow Dissenting ministers to officiate at funerals in parish churchyards. Lord R. CECIL moved the rejection of the bill, which had the support of the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the opposition of Mr. Disraeli. On a division, the bill was rejected by 221 votes to 96.

THURSDAY, APRIL 16.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Alkali Works Regulation Bill, after some discussion, was read a second time.

THE CROWN OF GREECE.

The Earl of MALMESBURY inquired of her Majesty's Government what was the present state of the negotiations respecting the Crown of Greece and the cession of the island and fortress of Corfu to that country. The noble Earl, in a speech of some length, commented upon the conduct of our Foreign Minister, in respect to the nomination of Prince William of Denmark to the throne of Greece.

Earl RUSSELL defended the course he had taken in regard to the candidature of the Danish Prince to the throne of Greece. The nomination of his Royal Highness was wholly conditional upon the assent of the King of Denmark and Prince Christian. In reference to Corfu, it should be recollected that England was only the protector of the Ionian Islands, and therefore had a perfect right to propose its cession to Greece if she thought proper. If the Ionians assented to this cession, the other Powers of Europe would be asked to assent to such an arrangement.

After some further conversation, in which the Earl of Derby and Earl Granville took part, the subject dropped.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE BUDGET.

The House went into Committee of Ways and Means. The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER proceeded, at twenty minutes to five, to make his financial statement. He said that the statement he had to submit was not merely one of receipt and expenditure, but might be regarded as an answer to a deliberate resolution of the House of Commons declaring

that the burdens of the country ought to be reduced. The expenditure of the financial year 1858-9, the year which followed the Russian War, was 64,664,000., that of 1859-60 was 69,502,000., that for 1860-1 was 72,842,000.. The average for the four years from 1859 to 1863, with which he had to deal, was 71,195,000., including a million for fortifications, or on average, without fortifications, 70,678,000.. In coming to consider the balance-sheet which he had to submit, he thought it would be impossible to form an opinion of the state of the country, or of the elasticity of its resources, without fully considering the various estimates. On the part of his colleagues he stated them, on a previous occasion, with great reserve; but the account he had now to present he considered a very hopeful one, but it would be necessary to consider the specialities of the country. The harvests during the last three years had not been favourable. Of Lancashire, to which all had looked as symbolical of progress and prosperity—we now thought with more sympathy on account of the moral aspect of its condition, for it had taught us lessons which none of us had hoped to learn. The Lancashire distress, taken as a whole, had become far more severe, had reached a point of the most afflicting stringency; and yet, under such circumstances, the balance-sheet had been made. Another special circumstance to which he must refer was the great amount of distress which had prevailed in many parts of Ireland. Up to 1859 they had the consolation of believing that the state of Ireland was a state of steady and remarkable progress. But in 1859 that progress had been checked, and during the last four years it had not recovered. These special causes in Lancashire and Ireland had deprived the revenue of a large amount which would otherwise have come in. The estimated expenditure for the last year, up to March 21, was 70,108,000.; the actual expenditure had been 69,302,000., or less by 806,000., showing an apparent decrease on the year 1861-2 of 1,536,000.; of 1860-1 an apparent decrease of 3,202,000.; of 1859-60, 715,000.. The customs of the year had exceeded the estimate by 484,000.. The income tax produced 467,000. over the estimate, owing to a new assessment of property, which never failed to produce a large amount, owing not to malpractices, but to an increase in the material prosperity of the country. The excise showed a deficiency of more than a million in comparison with the estimate, arising chiefly from malt and spirits. In this he saw no cause for surprise, for the deficiency on the consumption of those articles was the consequence of the distress which had prevailed. The revenue for the year was 66,985,000.—that for 1862-3 being 67,790,000., showing an increase of 805,000.. Now they came to the estimated expenditure and revenue of the current year. With regard to the Galway contract and the packet service, they were matters under consideration, and he could not give the exact items; but he put the whole estimated expenditure at 67,749,000., being less than the previous year by 1,553,000., but higher than 1858-9 by 3,085,000.. The estimated revenue of the year he calculated at 71,490,000., showing a difference in favour of revenue over expenditure of 3,741,000.. When a Government had a large balance in hand it seldom troubled itself about augmentations, but anomalies were always being brought to notice. The tobacco question had been settled. The next matter was chicory. As chicory and coffee were used for the same purpose, his opinion was that the duty should be the same, and to obtain that end he thought the duty on chicory should be raised. Therefore he proposed to equalise the duty upon chicory and coffee, with allowances for waste; and he should propose that that resolution should be passed to-night. Strong liquors sold in clubs were sold without licenses. He proposed that they should pay the same licenses as hotels and coffee-houses. The next proposal was one of a similar character. A man took out a license to sell spirits, and at the same time a beer license, for which he paid only 1*l.* and a fraction. He dropped the spirit license and sold only beer. Such persons he proposed should pay 3*l.* 6*s.* 6*d.*, and others. He proposed to give licenses to sell smaller quantities of beer under two dozen, or 4*l.* 4*s.* 4*d.* The omnibus proprietors had been before him, and had made out a case for interference. He proposed to make carriers and others who travelled under four miles an hour pay half the duty of stage carriages. With regard to railways, he might say that they were exempted from taxation on trains running at a penny per mile. Since that exemption was granted an exceptional system had sprung up, and all excursion traffic was exempt. The Government thought it was wrong to give railways power to cultivate one sort of traffic rather than another, and he proposed to destroy the exemptions, and to commute the payment of 5 per cent. with exemptions for 3½ per cent. without any exemption whatever. It was also intended, with regard to charitable legacies, to assimilate the law of Ireland with that of England, no legacy duty being paid in Ireland. The right hon. gentleman then stated in detail some changes which he proposed to make in regard to the taxation upon charitable institutions, whereby property held in mortmain would be liable to duty, but hospitals and other such institutions be exempt; and then said that the increase he estimated to receive from all sources would give him a surplus of 3,874,000.. The question was, how were they to dispose of that surplus? There was a penny parcel charged on goods passed upwards. He proposed that from and after July 1 this charge should cease. Connected with this there was a charge of 1*s.* 6*d.* on bills of lading outwards, which he proposed to deal with in the same manner. The next subject he would mention was the minor incomes now liable to income tax. Before stating the nature of the alterations he proposed to make he would remind the House of what had been the course of legislation on the subject. When Mr. Pitt first introduced the income tax 60*l.* a year was the limit of income to which the tax began to attach. But Mr. Pitt fixed the limit upwards at 200*l.*, and it was only at incomes above 200*l.* that the full force of the tax was felt. It was undoubtedly true that since the time of Pitt the wealth of the country had enormously increased, and that with that increase the relative value of a given pecuniary income of so many pounds sterling had diminished. An income of 200*l.* a year now gave much less consequence and social standing than it did in the time of Pitt, and he therefore proposed that they should fix 200*l.* as the limit upon which the full sweep of the tax should be felt. The proposal of the Government was this—they would retain the income of 100*l.* as the point at which the man should become taxable, but would fix the income of 200*l.* as the point beyond which the reduced duty should not apply. They would not abolish the double rate of the tax, but they would allow every taxable person whose income was between 100*l.* and 200*l.* a year to make a deduction of 60*l.* from his taxable income. The present tax was 9*s.* 6*d.* A man with an income of 100*l.* now paid 2*l.* 10*s.*; in future he would only pay 1*l.* 10*s.* A man with an income of 125*l.* a year, who now paid 3*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, would in future only pay 2*l.* 8*s.* 3*d.*; with 150*l.*, instead of paying 5*l.* 12*s.* 6*d.*, he would pay 3*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*; and with 175*l.*, instead of paying 6*l.* 11*s.* 3*d.*, he would only pay 4*l.* 6*s.* 3*d.* The next subject to which he would call the attention of the Government was the tea and sugar duties. He thought it would be better not to divide the reduction, but to do what would give a sensible stimulus both to the consumption and to the revenue. The question, then, was between tea and sugar. The most important argument in favour of the reduction of the duty on tea was this, that at present it was a much heavier duty than the corresponding duty on sugar. The duty on tea was more than 100 per cent.; the duty on sugar was about one-half the value of the article. By reducing the tea duty the price of tea could be much more considerably lowered than the price of sugar could be lowered by a reduction of duty. It was the intention of the Government to propose to the Committee to reduce the duty on tea to 1*s.* per pound, the reductions to take effect immediately after the passing of the resolution on Friday next. He proposed that the tea duties should be granted only until the 1st of August, 1864. The effect of the reduction of the tea duty would be this. The reduction of 5*d.* in the pound would cause a loss of 1,659,000.; but, as he calculated on an increased consumption of 6,000,000 lb., there would be a revenue of 300,000. derived from that source, and the loss in the twelve months would be about 1,300,000.. The estimated amount of the income tax at 9*s.* 6*d.* in the pound was 10,500,000.. By a reduction to 7*d.* and 5*d.*, the loss for the entire year would be 2,350,000., or 1,175,000. for each 1*l.*; but, although the effect of the reduction on the full year would be 2,350,000., the whole of that loss would not be felt in the present year. That loss would amount to 1,600,000., and 750,000. would stand over for the financial year 1864-5. The estimated effect of the plan for the relief of minor incomes was a loss for the entire year of 400,000., or for the financial year of 300,000.. It followed that we might reduce the income tax for the whole community and adopt the plan of relief for minor incomes at a cost of 1,900,000., with a further prospective charge of 850,000.. The total loss which he contemplated incurring for the year was 3,343,000.; but there would be a further loss of 898,000. falling on the financial year 1864-5. The legislative changes now contemplated would therefore cause a loss of 4,241,000.. The whole amount of the remission now asked for was 4,601,000.. The surplus, before the reduction, was 3,874,000.; the loss was estimated at 3,343,000.; leaving a surplus of 531,000., with which surplus he did not propose to part; and he trusted the Committee would assist the Government in resisting any efforts to diminish that amount. It might be said that the plan which he proposed was a favourite one with other gentlemen; but that was nothing to its disparagement; and if the circumstances of the times were such as to enable him to make financial arrangements which met with the approbation of all parties, it was a matter of gratification to him to be able to do so. The right hon. gentleman then, at considerable length, pointed out the increase which had taken place in our national resources since the conclusion of the French Treaty, which had tended greatly to the prosperity of the country, and had fully justified the Government in proposing that measure; for he believed that the increase of our trade with France had far more than balanced the loss of trade which had been caused by the American war. Although the prosperity of the country was no doubt owing, in a considerable degree, to the energy of the people and the mechanical improvements of the present age, he believed it was owing still more to the course of legislation which Parliament had thought it desirable to adopt. The right hon. gentleman resumed his seat amidst loud cheers.

After some discussion, a resolution equalising the duties on chicory to those upon coffee was agreed to.

A NATIONAL GUARD FOR TURKEY.—Fuat Pacha has proposed the creation of an Ottoman militia, or national guard, in which all classes of the Sultan's subjects, of whatever religion, shall be liable to serve, and the idea has so far commended itself to his Majesty that the *irade* sanctioning the force has been issued, and a commission will shortly be named to agree upon the organisation and superintend the embodiment of the new landwehr.

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ILLUSTRATED TIMES.

SATURDAY, APRIL 18, 1863.

THE CITY AND THE METROPOLITAN POLICE.

The proposition for the amalgamation of the civic and metropolitan systems of police possesses one or two elements which may recommend it to favour, but certainly many which should cause it to be regarded with distrust. The privileges of the Corporation of London are looked upon almost universally beyond the City boundaries with extreme jealousy, and almost any retrenchment of them appears, to most people, to be a step to reform. The establishment of two distinct systems of police in contiguity has doubtless many disadvantages; and the prejudice against the distinctive and exclusive jurisdiction of the City force has been materially strengthened by recent disasters which it proved itself incompetent to avert.

On the other hand, it is clear that these same disasters were caused in a great measure by the authorities who now seek to take advantage of them adversely to the privileges of the City. The restrictions which confined the civic procession within the narrow limits of the City itself must be regarded as the primary cause of the overcrowding within those limits which produced such unfortunate results. An extension of the line of the procession accorded to the civic magnates by day, and exhibitions of fireworks by night, might have diverted a large portion of the crowd. It is absurd to endeavour to cast peculiar blame upon the City police in this matter when the calamities on the occasion of the lying-in-state of the Duke of Wellington and the brutal onslaught of the police on the people in Hyde Park during the excitement following Lord Grosvenor's Sunday Bill are yet fresh in the public memory.

The civic police is at least under the control of those who submit to its jurisdiction. In the case of the metropolitan force, it is under an almost irresponsible head, who has already shown the purposes to which it may be applied by a proclamation denying, at least by implication, the right of the people to hold public meetings to discuss an engrossing topic of the day. In ordinary matters the City force answers its purpose thoroughly well. No imputations have yet been brought against it of the character suggested by the present state of the Haymarket, by the yet recent insecurity of life and property in the streets of other parts of the metropolis, by the frequent and notorious hard-swearing of the police in other districts, and by the common popular belief as to the black-mail levied upon the most unfortunate of outcasts by certain members of the vaunted metropolitan force. These considerations should at least forewarn our legislators against being led into any act bearing the appearance of undue haste, and the unexpected adjournment of Sir De Lacy Evans's preliminary motion upon this subject happens fortunately to afford time for its calmer consideration. The subject, moreover, presents itself under a phase still more decided than Sir De Lacy Evans's proposition, since Sir George Grey has boldly given notice of his intention to introduce a bill for the amalgamation of the two forces. Of course the censure thus implied upon the conduct of the City force comes with peculiar grace from Sir George, whose own shortcomings in respect to the garotters and ticket-of-leave ruffians have been so notorious, and to whose needless interference with the proposed programme of the wedding procession no small share of the blame arising from the accidents which he now seeks to make the ground of his interference has been not unjustly ascribed.

What we could wish to see would be an amalgamation by which, while all the police of the entire metropolis should be trained to act in unison, every advantage enjoyed by the constitution of the civic force should be extended to the benefit of all. Let the police generally be an exclusively civil force, subject to the control of the civil authorities, and emancipated from the government of officers under no subjection but that emanating from the Home Office. The great distinction cannot be too strongly dwelt upon, that the system pursued in the City would render it difficult, if not impossible, to convert its police into the instruments of anti-popular repression, a tendency which has not altogether been avoided in the case of the force into which its absorption appears to be contemplated at the present time.

THE DUKE OF BRAUPORT IN POITOU.—The first day's wolfhunting in Poitou turned out a failure, for the simple and rather-to-be-expected reason that his well-trained foxhounds took no more notice of a wolf than they would of a donkey, and positively declined to run after it. A very large field, the estimate of which in the local journals varies from 250 to 400, turned out on Easter Tuesday, brimful of expectation, to see the performances of the English Lord's pack. After drawing a cover for two hours, a fine wolf was routed out by some native dogs. The pack got a good view of him, but "Och hone! vierastrie!" he was not game to their eyes, and no bellowing could rouse them from their indifference. The huntman is going to try what can be done in the way of educating the hounds for the new work required of them by turning out trapped wolves close to their noses. In time he will doubtless succeed. Foxhounds may be made to hunt anything, from a cur dog to a red herring. A great many members of the Jockey Club are going to join the Duke, on the chance of sport, as soon as the remaining races of the Paris spring season are over.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

PRINCESS LOUIS OF HESSE has had a most favourable recovery from her accouchement, and the infant Princess is thriving excellently.

THE DUKE DE BRABANT, presumptive heir to the throne of Belgium, has now attained his twenty-eighth year, having been born on the 9th of April, 1835.

SIR CHARLES LOOCK, it is reported, about to be raised to the peerage.

PARIS TELEGRAMS notice a rumour prevailing in the French capital that the Prince and Princess of Wales will visit the Emperor at Fontainebleau towards the middle of May.

PROFESSOR AIRY AND ADMIRAL WASHINGTON have reported against the construction of any railway that shall come within 1000 yards of the Royal Observatory at Greenwich.

THE SULTAN OF TURKEY has performed an act of religious liberality in Cairo by conferring a high Turkish order upon the chiefs of the Jewish, Greek, Armenian, Coptic, and Catholic persuasions.

AN OIL WELL is said to have been discovered at Barires, Monmouthshire. AN ACT allowing Roman Catholic Bishops to have control of Church property has passed the New York Senate.

MRS. HOMER, an American sculptress, recently rode a steeplechase at Rome against Mr. Splers, an Englishman, and was beaten.

A SIGNALMAN, named Bishop, was cut to pieces the other day on the Great Eastern Railway. His remains had to be swept together with a broom.

WHEN PARLIAMENT MET after the Easter recess in 1861 it had eighty-five bills before it; in 1862, eighty-one bills; in 1863, only sixty-four bills.

THERE is only one Irish Mormon in the Utah territory; but he is a host in himself, as he has nine wives and forty-seven children.

THE FEDERAL SUPREME COURT has decided that a bond given by representatives of a captured Federal vessel and cargo to a Confederate officer for ransom must be held valid in the Federal courts.

THE COURT OF ASSIZE IN NAPLES has sentenced to hard labour three persons convicted of having borne false witness, and of calumny in the political trials of the 15th May, 1848.

ON TUESDAY NEXT SIR GEORGE GREY will introduce a bill into the House of Commons for the amalgamation of the city of London police with the metropolitan police.

THE FRENCH MINISTER OF WAR has authorised several French officers to proceed to Madagascar to give instruction to the troops of King Radama II.

A POST-OFFICE RECEIVING-HOUSE in Caledonian-road, London, was broken into on Saturday morning last, and a quantity of postage-stamps stolen.

AT THE BRIGHTON REVIEW A FEMALE WAS KILLED by being knocked down by a horse, and several persons received injuries. The Earl of Sheffield had his ankle much bruised by a kick from a horse.

ROUPELLI, the ex-M.P., has become a useful member of prison society, being, it is said, a first-rate bookbinder, to which pursuit he has attached himself.

IN THE VILLAGE OF KIGHTLEY, near Stafford, a parrot, which had been confined in a cage for fifteen years, recently laid two eggs—one on the 16th ult. and the other on the 20th.

AT CAWNPORE, on the 11th of February, a solemn and impressive ceremony took place. This was the consecration of a building in memory of Christian people massacred at Cawnpore on the 15th of July, 1857. The Governor-General took part in the proceedings.

THERE are now 288 money-order post towns in Canada, 65 in Victoria, 45 in the Cape of Good Hope, 39 in South Australia, 24 in New Zealand, 22 in Western Australia, 18 in New South Wales, and 2 in Queensland.

THE MONTREAL STEAMER, St. Andrew, left Kingston on Saturday night with 350 steerage passengers of the working classes for America. These men were selected by agents at an office in Dublin, and had to sign an agreement to serve for one year on the Chicago Railway.

THE ITALIAN CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES has resolved to discontinue in future the Government subventions to the theatres of San Carlo at Naples, La Scala at Milan, &c.

FROM THE LAST REPORT MADE TO THE CENTRAL RELIEF COMMITTEE at Manchester it appears that the list of the unemployed continues to diminish. Mr. Farnall reported a decrease of upwards of 4000 as having taken place last week.

THE BODIES OF THREE ABORIGINES, quite complete and perfectly petrified into stone, have recently been discovered in a stony creek fifteen miles from Castlemaine, South Australia.

WILLIAM McNAIR KILLED HIS MOTHER IN CROSSMOLINA, Ireland, on the 5th inst., while labouring under an attack of insanity.

RUSSIANS OF LARGE FORTUNE, holding important offices, are just now, it is affirmed, realising their property and investing considerable sums in foreign securities, from fear lest the rising of the Poles should occasion a revolution at St. Petersburg or Moscow.

FRANCIS II., late of Naples, has paid off the crews of the two steamers he had brought with him from Gaeta, and which have all this while been stationed in the port of Civita Vecchia. The vessels have been handed over to a Papal commissioner.

FROM THE 1ST OF JANUARY TO THE 17TH OF MARCH, this year, the clearances of wood-laden ships at the port of St. John, New Brunswick, were twenty-five ships of 20,154 tons, carrying 1609 tons of birch, 2172 tons of pine, and 14,373,000 ft. of deal.

DENNIS DILLANE, convicted at the late Spring Assizes as an accessory before the fact to the murder of Mr. F. Fitzgerald, was executed in front of the Limerick county gaol, on Monday morning. A considerable number of persons were present.

AFTER THE LATE RAILWAY ACCIDENT AT LITTLE BYTHAM, on the Great Northern line, a passenger, who was extracted from a shattered carriage and had narrowly escaped death, would not be pacified because the railway officials could not find his pipe among the débris!

THE YAZOO, lately become prominent in the news from America, is a peculiar, dreary, unwholesome stream, its pale-green, sickly-looking waters having their origin in swamps, and being so fatal to health that its name, in the aboriginal tongue, signifies the "River of Death."

A BATTALION OF TURCOS is shortly expected to arrive in Paris, and, in consequence, a mosque is to be erected, where these Mussulmans may make their ablutions and invoke the Prophet. Moorish baths and an Arab café are also to be established.

A PUBLIC MEETING of the inhabitants of Marylebone, to express sympathy with the Polish people in their present heroic struggle, was held on Tuesday evening at the Courthouse, Marylebone-lane—Lord Fernoy, M.P., in the chair, supported by the great body of the Marylebone vestry, the clergy, parochial officers, and principal inhabitants of the parish.

THE BRIG AUSPICIOUS, of South Shields, which sailed from the Tyne for Hamburg on March 28, was lost on the Bercum Reef on the 31st. One of the boats has come ashore at Emden, and, as nothing has since been heard of the unfortunate crew of the brig, there is every reason to fear that they have perished.

AT LOUISVILLE, IN KENTUCKY, there is an annual tobacco-show, at which prizes are given for the best specimen of manufacturing-leaf, shipping-leaf, cutting-leaf, cigar-leaf, &c., and one of the prizes this year was a coffee and tea set of plated silver ware for the lady in whose name is entered the best hoghead of leaf tobacco.

TWO MEN HAVE BEEN ARRESTED IN SHEFFIELD on a charge of forging American Government notes, or "greenbacks," and it is alleged that the surreptitious manufacture of these notes has been carried on in Sheffield to a considerable extent.

GEORGE W. DYSON, who in the law reports of a daily contemporary had been described as a "parson," threatens to bring an action against the paper for defamation of character if he is ever so described again!

TWO YOUNG MEN WERE DROWNED IN THE THAMES on Sunday evening, in consequence of the boat in which they were rowing being run down by a steamer. Three others narrowly escaped a similar fate.

DR. LUTHER DISCOVERED A NEW PLANET at the Bilk Observatory on the 15th of March, his observations being confirmed at Bonn on the 22nd. The new planet (the twelfth discovered by Dr. Luther, and the seventy-eighth of the small orbs between Mars and Jupiter) has been named the Diana.

AT THE PARISH CHURCH OF ARNGASK, SCOTLAND, lately, a male child was baptised in the presence of his father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, the united ages of whom amounted to 166 years. In these four individuals the following relationships are united, namely:—one great-grandfather, two grandfathers, three fathers, three sons, two grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

THE CUCKOO was heard at Romsey, in Hampshire, on Saturday last—nearly a week earlier than in ordinary seasons. At Woolstone, in the same county, a famous place for English song-birds, thrushes commenced singing at the beginning of February; and the blackbirds are now in full song. The skylark, wren, hedge-sparrow, robin, and woodlark have been singing for some time.

THE VOLUNTEER REVIEW AT BRIGHTON.

In our Number for last week (see page 259) we gave full details of the Easter-Monday Volunteer Review at Brighton, and now add a couple of Engravings—the one showing the artillery galloping past Lord W. Paulet, the General Commanding-in-Chief for the day, and the other giving a general view of the operations while the sham fight was in progress.

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

BE it known to all persons whom it may concern, that Mr. Henry Fawcett, late candidate for Cambridge, and sometime candidate for Southwark, the blind philosopher whom we all know, and whom to know is to esteem, has published "A Manual of Political Economy." John Stuart Mill has exhausted this subject, but, as Mr. Fawcett says in his preface, Mill's book "is so complete and exhaustive that many are afraid to encounter the labour and thought which are requisite to master it;" hence this "Manual," which is shorter and easier reading, as I can testify. In short, this is a most valuable book, and all the more valuable for the copious analytic summary prefixed thereto. To members of Parliament generally, and to some especially, whom I would name if I did not shrink from doing what they might deem offensive, I would recommend this book; for, in truth, in no place in the world, at least in no place which I am acquainted with, is there more ignorance on this subject than there is in the House of Commons, which, of all places in the world, is the place in which a clear knowledge of political economy ought to prevail. Indeed, the solecisms one hears when a politico-economical question comes before the House are positively startling. Only a year ago I heard a county member, when Gladstone proposed to take all excise duty off a manufactured article, assert that the measure would certainly make the article dearer and throw labourers out of employ. It would be well, too, if the editor of the *Times* would get a copy of this book and compel his writers to read it. There is a chapter on over-production, a perusal of which would be of vast advantage to the gentleman who has lately been favouring the public with his views on the causes of the distress in the cotton districts. Indeed, I think it would be advisable, before appointing gentlemen to write for such papers as the *Times*, to trot them through an examination on this subject, in which case Mr. Fawcett's book would be a wonderful help to them.

A correspondent kindly informs me that the Barings have no influence at Thetford. This is news to me. Let me, however, show you that I did not assert last week without authority that they have. In Oldfield's "Representative History," published in 1816, we are told that the influence is divided between the Grafton and the Petre families. In Dod's "Electoral Facts" I find it stated that the influence is "now divided between the Duke of Grafton and Lord Ashburton, whose father purchased Lord Petre's interest and estate in this neighbourhood." So much for books. But I have some personal knowledge of Thetford, having lived in the neighbourhood for a year (that, however, was a long time ago, when Best was Mayor and gave good dinners, at which a late bookseller sang good songs, and a sailor told capital stories, and noisy Mother Radcliffe kept the Bell), and the impression I gained was that the inhabitants could no more permanently control the election of members of Parliament than they could make Thetford a lively town. Once upon a time an attempt was made to pump a little life into this dull place. A chalybeate spring was discovered. Allum, the chemist, puffed it; a pump-room was erected, and Thetford was to be another Cheltenham. But it didn't answer; Allum's puffing only served just to raise the bubble; and it soon collapsed. Once in thirty years, the town asserted its right to choose a member. But it is singular that it was not Baring but the Earl of Easton that was turned out. But, if the Barings have no influence, how is it that a Baring has represented the town ever since the Reform Bill was passed? The number of electors in this precious borough is, by the last return, 221. In the old days before the Reform Bill Thetford was one of the most notoriously corrupt places in England, although the electors did not number more than 32, being the Mayor, burgesses, and commonalty.

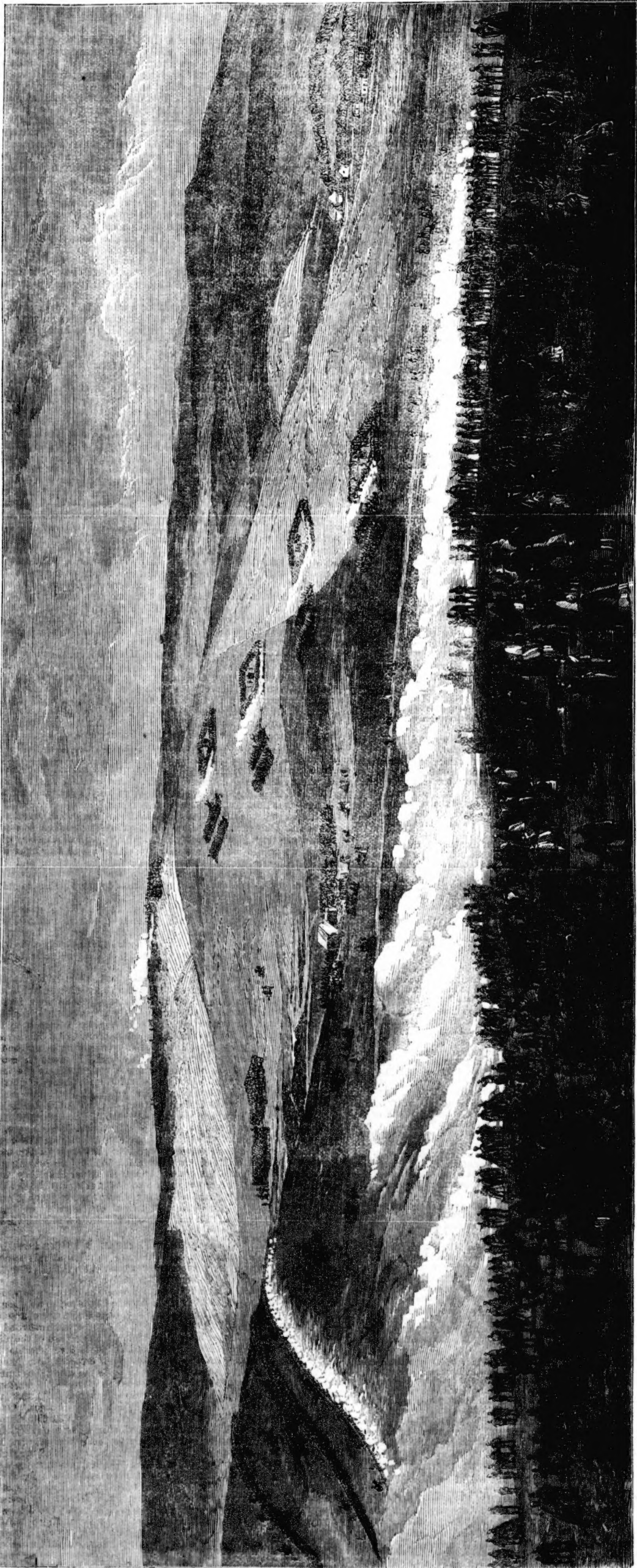
Almost as soon as the intelligence of Sir George Lewis's death arrived in town gossip began to be busy about the re-arrangements rendered necessary in the Government by the mournful event. Of course, nothing can have been settled whilst I am writing, but rumour points to Earl De Grey and Ripon, now Under Secretary for War, as likely to fill Sir George's post as Principal Secretary. In that case it is thought that Mr. Thomas George Baring will be Under Secretary for War. Mr. Baring is now Under Secretary at the India Board. By such an arrangement no re-election of members would be necessary.

The azaleas show of the Royal Horticultural Society on Wednesday last was an eminently successful affair. The weather was fine and genial as a mild May day; the flowers were very splendid; and the company was numerous, but not so numerous or so select as that which used to grace the azalea shows in times gone by in the society's grounds at Chiswick. The arrangement of the flowers was susceptible of very great improvement. The covered arcades, with their stone-colour walls, are hardly preferable to the light and airy look of the canvas sides of the accustomed tent; and the green-baize background, with its dull uniformity of tone, was more than sufficient to overpower even the blaze of colour which is common to all these floral displays.

The exhibition was in other respects an admirable one, more especially when the early period of the season is taken into consideration. Twenty-four varieties of azaleas exhibited by Mr. C. Turner, of Slough, eclipsed everything else of their kind shown, and were awarded an extra prize by the judges, and one of a greater value than was conferred on any other collection.

The private view on Wednesday evening at the South Kensington Museum of the wedding presents to the Prince and Princess of Wales was an ill-arranged affair. Six times as many persons were invited as the new north court could conveniently accommodate, and the consequence was a crush very nearly equal to that presented by the London streets on the night of the illuminations. Not more than half the company made any attempt at all to see the presents, and of this half only a fraction succeeded in its object. I was in the crowd for an hour and a half, during which time I progressed at the most about five-and-twenty yards, and had a capital opportunity of making myself acquainted with the imperfect ventilation of this much-vaunted building. As I found that almost an equal space had still to be traversed before one would be brought face to face with the objects one went especially to see, I gave up the struggle, and, sliding through an opening in the court, contented myself with a few cursory glances at some of the more choice objects of the famous loan collection before leaving the building. Outside, matters were only a trifle better than they were within, for carriages were setting down and taking up at the same entrances, and arriving and departing visitors were jostling each other in their attempts to pass in different directions through the same narrow doorways. To call such an exhibition a private view is a perfect farce.

"Jessie Ashton," at the SURREY THEATRE, is a drama certainly sufficiently replete with incident. There are, as usual at this theatre, several scenes which are triumphs of theatrical effect. The last represents the new Westminster Bridge by moonlight, with the Thames flowing beneath, and the buildings on the Surrey side visible between the arches. The effect is heightened by the introduction of actual gaslights illuminating the roadway, over which the characters pass as in real life. The appearance of this scene was rewarded by loud calls for the manager and scenepainter. The action of the piece was sensational to a degree I am inclined to believe unexampled on the stage. Jessie Ashton, who has just escaped from prison, appears upon the foreground (the shore close to the steam-boat pier), and is set upon by a ruffian, who informs her that the actual murderer has confessed the crime for which she was imprisoned, and that the young gentleman she was about to marry is not her brother. Overjoyed at this intelligence, Jessie wishes to retire, but Ruffian detains her, and attempts to kill her. Instead of bearing this quietly, like the meek victims in other pieces, Jessie throttles him with her left hand, and further disables him by clawing his eyes with her right. She then escapes to a boat, but Ruffian revives, and again approaches her. She stuns him with a terrific blow over the head with a boat-hook, and drops down with the tide. Ruffian again revives, fires a pistol at her, and shatters her boat to atoms with a single bullet! He becomes again insensible, when her young man is let down off the bridge to her rescue, and reappears supporting her while swimming manfully against tide with one hand. Ruffian again revives and presents another pistol, but is shot dead by a sporting gentleman on the bridge, who happens to be carrying a fowling-piece. The lovers are rescued by a comic potboy, who brings a boat; and all ends happily.



THE BRIGHTON VOLUNTEER REVIEW.—GENERAL VIEW OF THE GROUND WITH THE TROOPS IN POSITION.



SUSSEX ARTILLERY GALLOPING PAST.



AN APRIL SHOWER.

knife. A tall figure stood before him, and he had thrown himself into an aggressive attitude before he recognised Lord Gaveloch, who laughed heartily, and said, "What's all this about? Have you had a row? And why are you tying up this poor fellow after knocking him down?"

"This poor fellow wanted to stick me with a whacking great knife, which you may inspect there near the gateway if you will pick it up. I have been robbed of my watch and money and cloak by another poor fellow, and then this party wanted to finish me off."

"Where is the other fellow?"

"Oh, he has decamped with the booty. What shall we do with this one? I suppose there's no police-station to be found handy in these outlandish parts."

"Oh, yes there are; but I shouldn't say you would find them awake now; nor would I advise you to knock them up, for they might very likely be private friends of this respectable man; and if they were not, a prosecution in the kingdom of Naples is no end of a business. It would keep you here six months, and there would be a cloud of witnesses



THE LONG RECKONING.—AN UNPLEASANT EPISODE IN STRENSAL'S MIDNIGHT ADVENTURE.

turn up to swear they saw you attempt to murder this poor innocent, unless you hired them at ten ducats a head to swear the other way, which might hurt your conscience. I advise you to kick him soundly and let him go."

This advice was acted on. The knife was picked up and preserved as a spoil of war, and the two entered the hotel.

They did not sit up to relate their adventures, but Strensal said before they parted, "I am about tired of this sort of thing. I don't see much use in my staying any longer in Naples."

"No more do I. There is a steamer to-morrow afternoon, and, if you like, I will start by it too."

"With all my heart. I begin to feel a longing for the respectable atmosphere of England. Here the air seems supercharged with disreputable adventures."

Well, perhaps a mouthful or two of the pure ether of London fog may reoxygenate our moral lights. Here we are between the carbonic acid of the Grotto del Cane and the sulphureous breath of Vesuvius. Good night!

(To be continued.)



POLISH HUSSAR



POLISH PEASANTS.



POLISH LANCER.



MDLE. POSTOWOYTOW, LANGIEWICZ'S LATE AIDE-DE-CAMP.



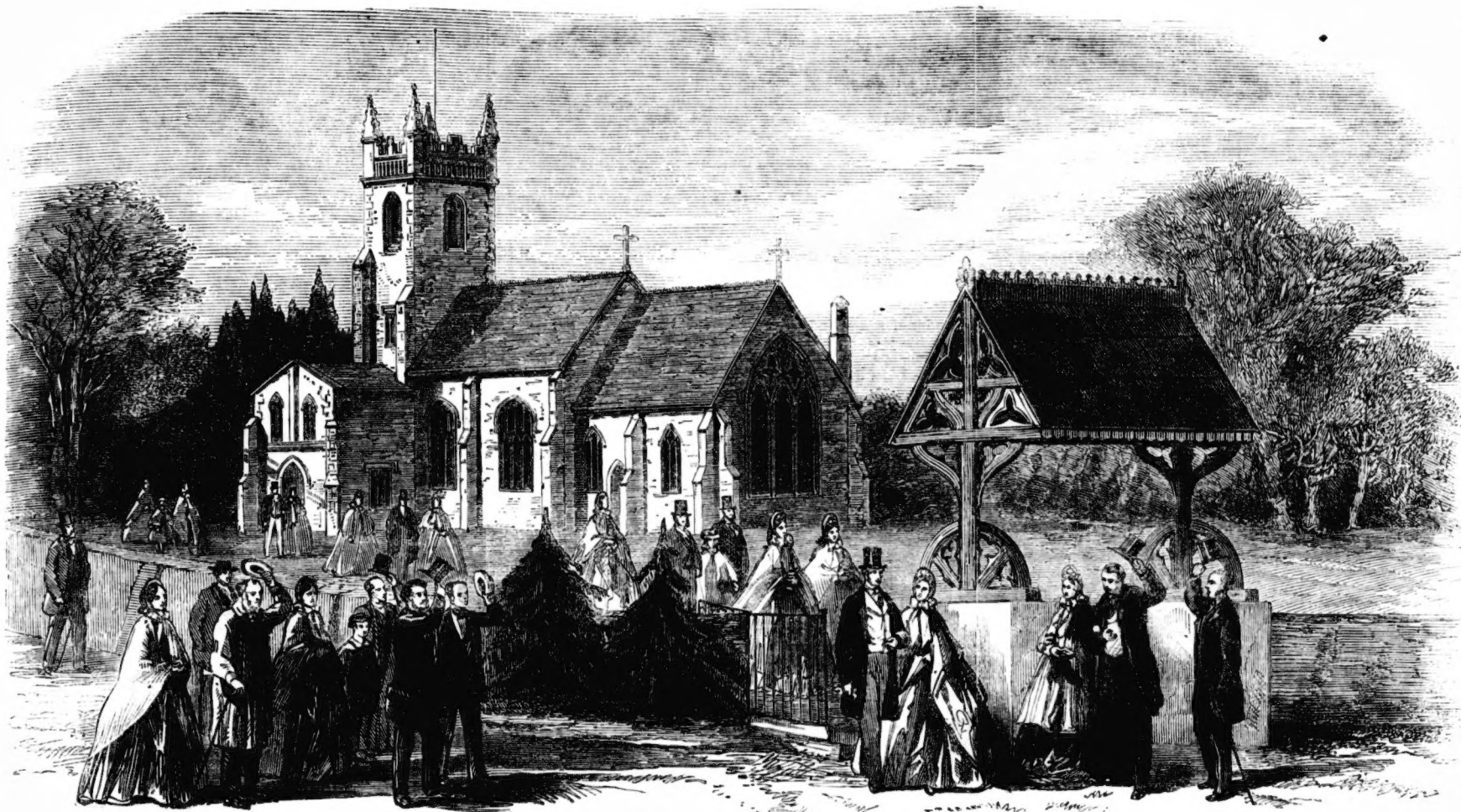
POLISH FUSILIERS.



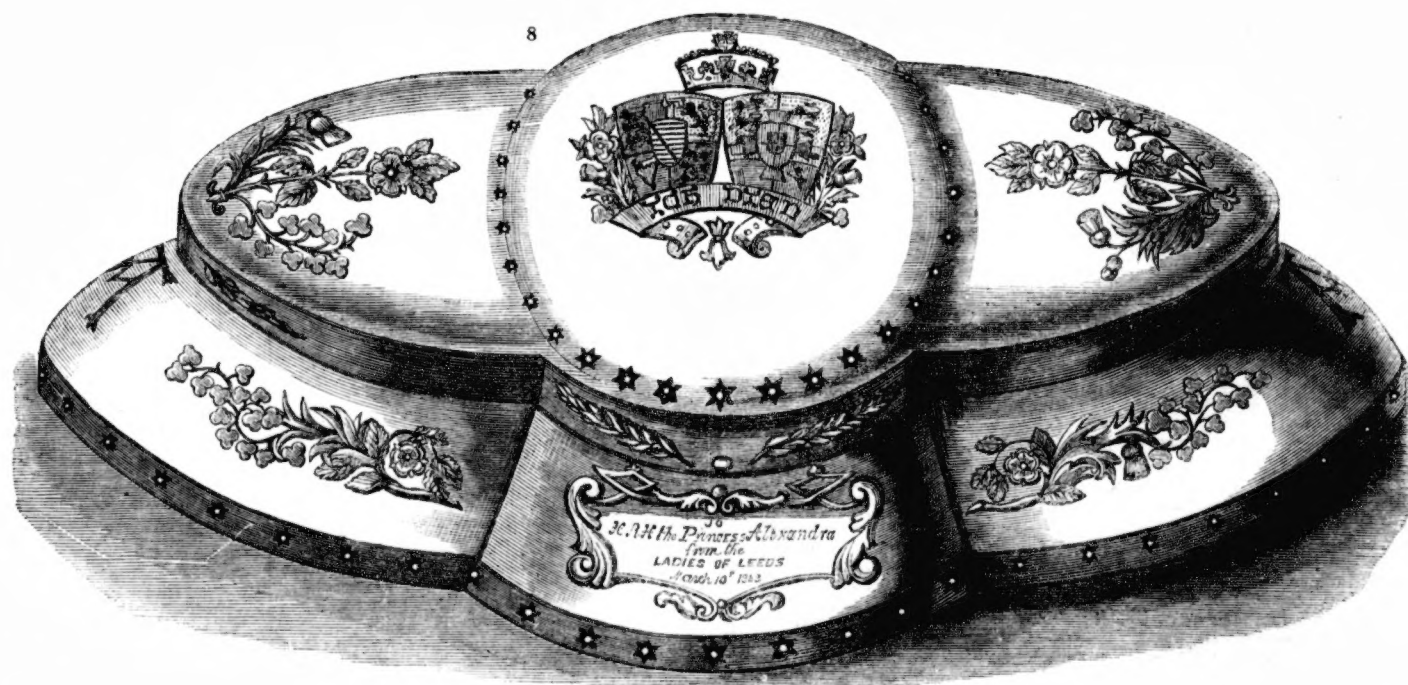
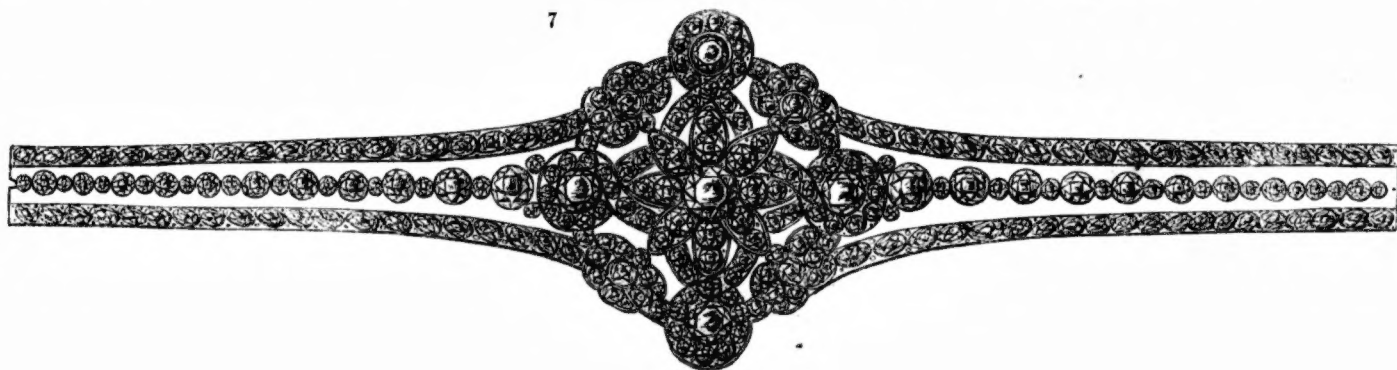
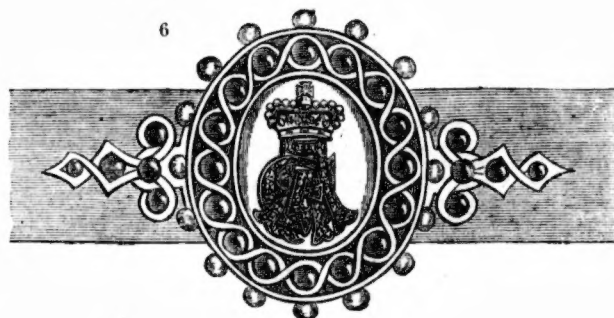
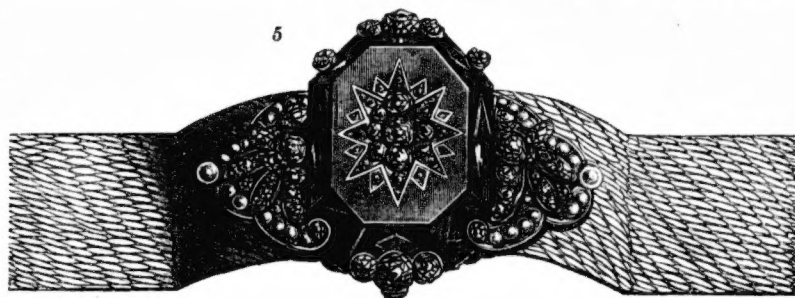
POLISH CAVALRY.



POLISH SCYTHMEN.



SANDRINGHAM CHURCH, NORFOLK.



1. ONE OF THE ENAMEL AND GOLD BROOCHES PRESENTED BY THE PRINCE OF WALES TO HIS PRIVATE FRIENDS.—2. LOCKET PRESENTED BY THE PRINCE OF WALES TO HER MAJESTY.—3. ONE OF THE FIVE LOCKETS PRESENTED BY THE PRINCE OF WALES TO HIS SISTERS.—4. ONE OF THE LOCKETS PRESENTED BY THE PRINCE OF WALES TO THE PRINCESSES THYRA AND DAGMAR.—5. BRACELET PRESENTED BY HER MAJESTY TO PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF DENMARK. 6. BRACELET PRESENTED BY THE PRINCE OF WALES TO PRINCESS CHRISTIAN OF DENMARK.—7. BRACELET PRESENTED BY THE LADIES OF LEEDS TO PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.—8. CASKET INCLOSING THE BRACELET PRESENTED BY THE LADIES OF LEEDS TO PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.

POLISH PEASANTS AND INSURGENTS.

IN accordance with the intention which we expressed last week, our present Number contains several illustrations representing the Polish peasantry and their appearance after they have taken up arms in the national cause. It is amongst the peasants that the national costume of Poland is frequently seen in the greatest perfection; not that they alone desire to retain it, but in the towns the popular dress is often absolutely forbidden, and in Lithuania, which is eminently Polish, the four-cornered cap, the peculiarly cut coat, and even the Polish cross-belt and ornaments, are strictly forbidden. The Polish costume of the present day, however, is semi-Hungarian. The dress of the ancient Polish Republic included the girdle and the Oriental caftan. The costumes of the peasants, although they vary considerably according to the districts in which they live, have a general resemblance, founded on an amalgamation of the ancient with the more modern fashion.

It is probably because the Poles are forbidden to be Poles that they cling so fondly to the national dress—to the military braided coat, the lancerlike Kosciusko caps, and the long, black boots, stitched with white. It is in Cracow, however, that this costume is most universally worn, many of the shopkeepers and citizens keeping to it with most praiseworthy fidelity.

The tenures by which proprietors hold peasants, and the peasants hold lands in consideration of so much work given to the proprietors, are so peculiar that they are difficult to reconcile with any proposed reform or entire emancipation. In Hungary, when the peasants were emancipated from their land by the Austrian Government, after the insurrection of 1848-9, the corvée had already been reduced by the proprietors to two days a week on some estates and one day a week on others, while every year the condition of the serf approached more closely to that of a free labourer, although he was not called upon to give up his ancestral fields for that reason.

In Galicia, after rejecting several petitions from the Polish nobility in favour of emancipation, the Austrian Government itself emancipated the peasants. As the object of this measure was to weaken the proprietor and encourage the peasant, the latter received all his land and the former had no indemnity. Ultimately, however, a tax was laid on the whole province in order to raise a recompense of about one-third the value of the land, which was paid to the proprietor in Government bills of doubtful value.

In the Grand Duchy of Posen the serf and his land were emancipated together, the peasants receiving about a third part of the estates, for which they were to pay a third of the value of the corvées up to that time executed by them.

In Russia the result of the condition of the peasant, and an attempt at partial emancipation, is, that while he believes that liberty means the right of cultivating his field or garden without paying anything in money or work, the proprietor regards emancipation as a measure for rendering the peasant a free agricultural labourer to receive wages.

The Government has taken a middle view between these extremes, and has failed to give satisfaction to either party. Under the emancipation decree of 1860, neither is the proprietor at liberty to dispose freely of his land nor the peasant of his labour.

The partial serfdom of the Polish peasantry seems to have arisen from encroachments on the part of the proprietors. Every Pole who could equip himself for battle and fight in defence of the country had his land cultivated for him by communes of peasants, who at the same time cultivated their own land; and the knights or nobles seem gradually to have assumed that they could claim both land and labour. In Poland, however, the peasants were never slaves, and their unfortunate position was frequently discussed with a view to its amelioration. The miserable condition in which they seemed to live was not altogether irremediable, but arose principally from the habits of the people themselves.

The Constitution of May 8, 1791, provided for the gradual emancipation of the peasantry, but its adoption was the signal for the second partition; and this again was followed by Kosciusko's insurrection.

The Governments under which Poland is placed will suffer no amelioration to the peasant which does not seem to originate from themselves; so that they may, if possible, maintain an influence over the uneducated portion of the people; thus, in fact, giving them a fictitious importance. The proprietors do not press them for rent, the Government will not take them for recruits, and everything is done to enhance their opinion of themselves.

Notwithstanding all this, however, the Polish peasants are proving their nationality throughout the country by the courage and determination with which they fight for the cause of freedom. Neither the legislation which pretended to confer fresh rights upon them, nor the tyranny which endeavoured to Russify them by forbidding the national costume, have been attended with any general result. The only effect of the Russian oppression, or the Russian blandishment, seems to be the consolidation of the national resistance.

We have already given our readers some description of the scythemen who have become so terrible to the Russian troops. These were only a part of the great body of peasants who are now divided into numerous bands, and were partly concentrated under the command of Langiewicz.

It is said that this General's troops consisted of about 700 cavalry (mounted, for the most part, on very indifferent horses), from 400 to 500 Zouaves, nearly 2000 scythemen, and from 2000 to 3000 infantry, armed, latterly, for the most part, with rifles, but in the first instance with old-fashioned muskets, fowling-pieces, revolvers, and whatever they could get. Speaking generally, the insurgents, to whatever corps they belonged, were armed anyhow, dressed anyhow, and fought anyhow; that is to say, in whatever order or disorder happened to suit them, so long as they could manage to beat the enemy.

All that is required to enter the Polish cavalry is that the candidate should be a good horseman. All that is expected of him in the field is that he shall do his best to kill a Russian, either by riding over him or running him through, or by both processes. As the Poles learn foreign languages by persistent endeavours to speak them, so they now learn the art of war by actual fighting. The principles and rules according to which battles ought to be fought—in short, the grammar of the art—will be studied afterwards.

The Russians are now making prodigious efforts to put an end to the insurrection, but with little success. The peasants in Lithuania have joined the insurgents, and they commenced their operations by setting fire to the "schismatic" (Russian) Churches. The partisan chiefs are now exceedingly severe to persons whom they suspect of being in communication with the Russians, and it is said that they have recently hanged several persons whom they believed to be spies. During the last few days more than 500 political prisoners have been sent by night from Warsaw and Modlin to the eastern provinces of Russia, whence they will be transported to Siberia or to the Caucasus.

MILLE PUSTOVODOVA.

This young lady, who has already become celebrated throughout Europe, in connection with the Polish insurrection, was one of the Staff of General Langiewicz, and occupied a position in the Polish army which could, perhaps, have been accorded to a young and beautiful woman only in Poland.

Although she is so ardent an admirer of the Polish General, and has herself done so much for the national cause, she is, in fact, a Russian subject, being the daughter of Colonel Pustovoydoff, of the Russian army, and of a Polish lady. This is not the first time that Mlle. Pustovoydova has been deprived of her freedom, since, when she was quite a child, she was shut up at Zitimir in a convent for uttering some sentiment opposed to the noble principles on which the Russian empire is governed. She succeeded, however, after about two years' incarceration, in making her escape, and on the outbreak of the Polish insurrection took the earliest opportunity of placing her military and equestrian talents at the service of the Dictator. Opinions are divided in Cracow as to her beauty. The men think her charming; the women "cannot see what there is to admire in her," from which it must be inferred that they cannot see her eyes, or her hair, or the expression of her face. According to the male estimate of her age, she is eighteen; according to the female, twenty-eight. At all events, she is very young to have had three

horses killed under her—a fact as to which all persons seem to be agreed. It is quite certain, too, that she led a charge of scythemen at Grochowiska. The Kosciuski were hesitating before a well-sustained fire of Russian infantry, and could not be got to advance, when the pretty aide-de-camp rode in front of the regiment, and—apparently by the mere force of personal attractiveness—drew it forwards. The Poles will go anywhere after a good-looking woman, and at Grochowiska this weakness proved a source of strength.

According to the latest accounts Mlle. Pustovoydova has been set at liberty, and is now living in Prague in the Hotel de Saxe, where, it is said, she will remain for some time. A number of curious folks gathered before her windows to endeavour to get a sight of her, but failed; the lady would not gratify their curiosity. She is mostly with another distinguished Polish lady, who is also wrapped in mystery, no one knowing who she is. She is young, well shaped, and of an interesting appearance, walking always alone in the promenade. Miss P. has an old servant with her, and makes use of the hotel equipage. She has an elegant bearing, and on her pale cheek is an imprint of sorrow, which is further deepened by the mourning she wears. She is graceful in her manners, which point to a vivacious mind now subdued by grief. She speaks very good German, and uses Polish only with her servant. She is without a guard, having given her parole not to mix up any more with the Polish movement.

ROYAL MARRIAGE PRESENTS.

THE opening of the exhibition of the Royal marriage presents at South Kensington gives renewed interest to the subject of these gifts; and we therefore this week engrave some specimens of the articles manufactured for presents on the late auspicious marriage. It is needless to mention that some of the articles shown in our Engraving being given by, and not to, their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, are not included in the display at South Kensington; indeed, most of the objects shown in our Engraving come under this category. They are the workmanship of Messrs. Turner, of New Bond-street; and are from designs by their Royal Highnesses the Prince of Wales and Princess Alice.

The brooch intended as a gift to the Prince's private friends is in enamel and gold. The locket presented by the Prince to his august mother is from a design by Princess Alice, and is composed of rock crystal, with monogram of rubies, diamonds, and emeralds; the whole surrounded with orange-blossoms in green and white enamel. The lockets presented by the Prince to his sisters are also of crystal, surrounded by diamonds, with the crown and monogram of rubies, emeralds, and diamonds, and the border of diamonds and pearls. The locket given by his Royal Highness to the sisters of his bride, Princesses Thyra and Dagmar, is likewise of crystal, surrounded by diamonds, the monogram and crown being in rubies, emeralds, and diamonds. The bracelet presented by the Queen to Princess Christian of Denmark consists of a single-faced amethyst, with diamond star set in a border of diamonds and pearls; while that given by the Prince to his mother-in-law is of rock crystal, with crown and monogram in diamonds, rubies, and emeralds, surrounded by turquoise set in a ribbon of gold, the border being of pearls. The two other objects which we have engraved are the beautiful diamond bracelet presented by the ladies of Leeds to her Royal Highness, and the handsome casket in which this elegant article was contained, which, of course, are in the collection now on view at South Kensington. It is hardly necessary to add that the settings of the above-named articles are all of the purest gold, and the workmanship of the most skilful, elaborate, and tasteful character.

SANDRINGHAM CHURCH.

THE visit of the Prince and Princess of Wales to Sandringham has invested the locality with more than ordinary interest; and among other objects deserving of notice is Sandringham Church, where their Royal Highnesses regularly attended Divine service during their stay at their seat in Norfolk. Sandringham Church has, within a few years, been thoroughly repaired, under the care of Mr. Teulon, and it is one of the most pleasing in the county. It has a nave, a chancel, and a tower at the west end; and is built of carstone, a kind of ironstone found on the Sandringham estate. There are four windows in the nave—two with painted glass by Clayton, and two with subjects in outline by Wilmslow. The window in the tower is also by Wilmslow. The east window, in the chancel, and two lancet windows, cusped, on the south side, are of painted glass by Clayton. The seats are open, modern, and of oak; the pulpit is of stone, and the reading-desk of oak. Here and there, throughout the church, are religious sentences and devices. It is paved with Minton's tiles, quite plain, and laid in pattern. The Rev. G. B. Moxon is the Rector of Sandringham parish.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

BOTH opera houses have opened brilliantly, and both are now in full swing. In our last week's Impression we spoke of the splendid performance of "Masaniello" with which Mr. Gye commenced his campaign, and the day on which our newspaper was published witnessed the still finer representation of "Il Trovatore" which inaugurated Mr. Mapleson's adventurous season. Often as the opera has been given during the last ten years, and multifarious as have been the distributions of the characters, we might safely affirm that it has never before been represented with so extraordinarily powerful a cast. The noble voices employed gave renewed vitality to the moribund music, already worn down by its own feverishness to a premature decrepitude. We trust that the sufferings of the ghastly patient will soon be released in death. "Il Trovatore" reminds one of those disagreeable persons so often met with in the world whom everybody dislikes, and who seem to succeed all the better for the abuse showered upon them. We have never yet heard any individual with the slightest claim to taste in music confess to a partiality for this inevitable opera, and yet managers declare it to be the most popular—that is to say, the most paying—of all. Nevertheless, even the managers seem at length to be ashamed of it, and to think some excuse needed for its performance. For instance, instead of simply announcing its repetition, as he would do in the case of any other work, Mr. Mapleson takes the trouble to advertise that "in consequence of every place having been disposed of for its representation on Saturday last, and owing to the impossibility of repeating it for some period on account of forthcoming novelties, Verdi's favourite opera, 'Il Trovatore,' will be again performed on Saturday next," &c. If anything could reconcile one to its hackneyed strains, it would be their interpretation by four such voices as those of Mlle. Titiens, Mlle. Alboni, Sig. Giuglini, and Mr. Santley. The warm sea breezes of Naples, and, perhaps, the still warmer breath of southern applause, seem to have invigorated the powerful Tonic voice of Mlle. Titiens, and to have kindled in her the laudable ambition to refine by art the rich gifts of nature. She has never given more intense or passionate expression to the essentially dramatic music allotted to Leonora in the last act, which, by-the-by, is the finest that Verdi has yet given to the world. Mlle. Alboni has not been heard upon the English stage for several years, but the first few notes she sang satisfied everybody that she has returned to us in the full possession of her glorious powers. Such a voice—so full, rich, powerful, and sweet—has seldom before been heard; nor is so utterly faultless a vocalist, whom nature, not art, has raised above reproach, met with more than once or twice in a century. Even the disjointed phrases in which the gipsy, ravenlike, croaks out her vengeance, were rendered musical by Alboni's exquisitely-balanced singing; while in the duet of the last act (the only snatch of grateful melody that is put into Azucena's mouth) her voice blended deliciously with that of Signor Giuglini, who has also returned with renovated powers. His voice no longer betrays the uncertainty which was its unpleasant characteristic last season, and he gave the aria, "Ah si, ben mio," with admirable refinement. With a little more light and shade, his singing would now be perfect. Mr. Santley, although an Englishman, is the finest baritone in Europe, and he proved himself in every respect the

equal of his celebrated coadjutors. A serenata by Mr. Cusins, the last fervently, we hope, of the endless *pièces d'occasion* suggested by the Royal wedding, was actually performed between the second and third acts of the opera, and, as the audience did not relish an unexpected interruption of this nature, it was accordingly hissed. The contretemps is, doubtless, unpleasant to Mr. Cusins, but it's an ill wind that blows good to nobody, and the occurrence will be of some service if it convinces the management that the public will no longer allow the progress of an opera to be arrested even for the sake of a ballet. In the choreographic department, by-the-by, Mr. Mapleson promises many novelties. In the meantime, he is by no means inactive. On the second night he revived a second opera ("I Puritani"), in which Mlle. Titiens attempted to personate the heroine, and in which, we may as well say plainly, she thoroughly failed. Why will not this highly-gifted lady understand that she is essentially a dramatic singer, and that she ought never to imperil her great reputation by trying to shine in parts intended to display the brilliant vocalisation of light sopranos? Signor Giuglini was quite at home giving expression to Arturo's sentimental sighs. It will scarcely be believed that the orchestra and chorus are both very efficient, the latter being particularly excellent. Mr. Mapleson has incurred considerable expense in bringing all his choristers from Turin; but as their voices are remarkably resonant, and their Italian extravagance will probably be soon toned down by the guidance of the experienced Signor Arditi, he will doubtless be rewarded for his enterprise. We should add that the house has been entirely renovated, and that when, on the opening night, the crowded audience rose to the familiar strains of the National Anthem, the effect upon the spectator was really imposing. The effect on the eye, however, was not so satisfactory; for Mlle. Titiens, being a German, began the National Anthem with the last verse; Mr. Santley, being an Englishman and tolerably well up in his own language, was not allowed to sing any verse at all; and Mlle. Alboni, being an Italian, sang some verse, we know not which, in some language, we know not what.

On the same evening, this day week, a certain Mlle. Fioretti made a very satisfactory debut in "I Puritani." The sparse audience greeted and applauded her in strangely unsympathetic fashion; but we must, nevertheless, regard her as a decided acquisition to the theatre. Her voice, a light and moderately high soprano, is of very fresh and agreeable quality; she sings invariably in perfect tune, and her vocalisation is exceedingly neat and finished. Other qualifications, however, are needed for an operatic artist; and, among these, not the least important are a good stage face and figure. Unfortunately for her impersonation of serious characters, Mlle. Fioretti is not only short and buxom, but her faintly-marked features wear a perpetual smile that sadly interferes with her portrayal of tragic emotion. But there is yet another drawback to her success on the stage, and that is her want of dramatic earnestness. Hence the coldness of the audience. Never did the poet-philosopher of our century utter truer words than these:—

Wenn ihr's nicht fñhlt, ihr werdet's nicht erjagen.
Nie werdet ihr Herz zu Herzen schaffen,
Wenn es euch nicht von Herzen geht.

Signor Ronconi made his first appearance since his dangerous illness in the character of Giorgio, the only part in which he utterly fails. With scarcely any voice, and unable to sing in tune, he stands in absolute need of some distinctly-marked dramatic character for the exhibitions of his genius, and we shall wait to reserve our welcome until he gives us an opportunity of witnessing one of the many impersonations in which he is unrivalled. Signor Neri-Baraldi was a careful Arturo, and M. Faure an excellent Riccardi.

The only important concert of the week have been the third of the Vocal Association, at which two new vocal compositions by Meyerbeer, both too difficult to become generally popular, were given; and the first since the Easter recess of the Monday Popular. At this latter M. Viueuxtemps reappeared, bringing back the beautiful tone which won him so many admirers two seasons ago. He led with unusual skill and fire the celebrated Rasumowski quartet in C, and also the scarcely less well known trio in B flat—the last of the six. There was no novelty in the programme, but the delight which Mr. Hallé caused by his finished performance of several gavottes, by old Sebastian Bach, was worthy of note.

As Mlle. Carlotta Patti's debut is already the talk of the town, we may mention a report, apparently well founded, that she has been engaged at the Royal Italian Opera for the whole season. A physical peculiarity fits her for the concert-room rather than the stage, but it is possible that she may nevertheless appear on the Covent Garden boards. Apropos of *on dits*, we may add that Mlle. Ristori will give a limited number of performances at Her Majesty's Theatre this year, and may perhaps deliver a few readings elsewhere.

BUNCOMBE AGAIN.—You do not know the Southern or the Yankee character as well as I do. They never knew or dreamed of their immense strength before; and notwithstanding the ocean of blood spilt, and all that sort of thing, you will see them consolidated before a year and waging war with both France and England—in the one case to drive the French out of Mexico; and the war with England will be made to vent their exasperation on some one, and to keep the immense armies employed for a few months, and to drive the English from off this continent. We want to pension a million or two of soldiers with land warrants of 200 acres of land. To carry out this grand idea we shall require the vast tracts known as the Hudson Bay Company's possessions.—*Manhattan.*

THEY TAKE THESE THINGS COOLLY IN AMERICA.—A man named Henderson jumped overboard from one of our river ferry-boats and was drowned. He had been a clerk in the Custom House for forty-eight years. Luckily there are at least ten thousand persons who are competent and willing to supply his place, and most of them have already made their application to the collector of the port!—*Manhattan.*

TERCENTENARY OF SHAKESPEARE'S BIRTHDAY.—On April 23 many parties of English scholars will be celebrating in various fashions the anniversary of Shakespeare's birth. In London the Garrick Club—including, as it does, almost every dramatist and every good actor in London, together with a host of "men of wit and humour about town"—will hold its annual dinner. Throughout the provinces, in every town where Shakespearean scholars and students can muster a few "clubbable men," there will be those very pleasant, semi-social, and semi-literary gatherings which, with the better class of cultivated Englishmen, combine the *esprit* of a French conversation party with the sober certainties of an English dinner. The 23rd of April next year will be the tercentenary of Shakespeare's birth.

THE HEALTH OF GARIBOLDI.—The following letter from Dr. Albanese, dated Capri, March 31, is published in the Paris journals:—"I am happy I can send you the best news of the General. For the last fortnight a decided improvement has taken place in his health. Rheumatism has completely disappeared; the wound goes on regularly and satisfactorily. The period of recovery has commenced, and without wishing to positively affirm that that of elimination has ended, I think, nevertheless, we are near its term."

EMIGRATION FROM THE COAL AND IRON DISTRICTS.—Emigration from the coal and iron districts of South Wales at the present time is larger than has ever been known. At several of the principal works as many as thirty have left at one "pay," and not a week passes without a few leaving. The majority of the emigrants are able-bodied young men, and it is remarkable that the destination of nearly all of them is New York, or some other port of the once United States. Higher wages and ready employment are the reasons given for emigrating; but as the state of things in the Northern States is so well known among our working population, the matter has naturally created suspicion, and it is feared that agents are at work holding out inducements to the emigrants with the view of making them eventually useful in the prosecution of the war against the South.

THE DUKE OF SOMERSET and several of his colleagues at the Admiralty, including Lord Clarence Paget, and Admiral Robinson, the Comptroller of the Navy; the Dukes of Newcastle and Devonshire; Lord De Grey and Ripon; Sir John Hay, and other persons of distinction, visited Sheffield last week, for the purpose of witnessing the operation of rolling armour-plates at the well-known Atlas Works, which are the property of the Mayor of that borough.

THE FACTORY OPERATIVES employed by the guardians of Preston struck work on Monday, in consequence of some new regulations having been introduced for the conduct of the operations in which they are engaged. The new rules were suspended for a week, and the émeute ended.

AN ACCIDENT OF A SINGULAR NATURE threatens the railway from Rome to Civita Vecchia. It consists of a subterranean flame, a sort of incipient volcano, which has shown itself at the place called Montepietra, seven kilometres from Rome. The focus of the flame is on the slope on the right hand side of the railway in going from Rome to Civita Vecchia.

A SHORT NOTE WRITTEN AND SIGNED BY MARTIN LUTHER, and bearing the date of 1531, was sold on Saturday in Paris at a sale of autographs for 500f.

CORNS AND BUNIONS.—A Gentleman many years tormented with Corns will be happy to afford others the information by which he obtained their entire removal in a short period, without any pain or any kind of inconvenience. Forward address on a stamped envelope to W. Goodall, Esq. 1, Royal Colonnade, Brighton, Sussex.

